

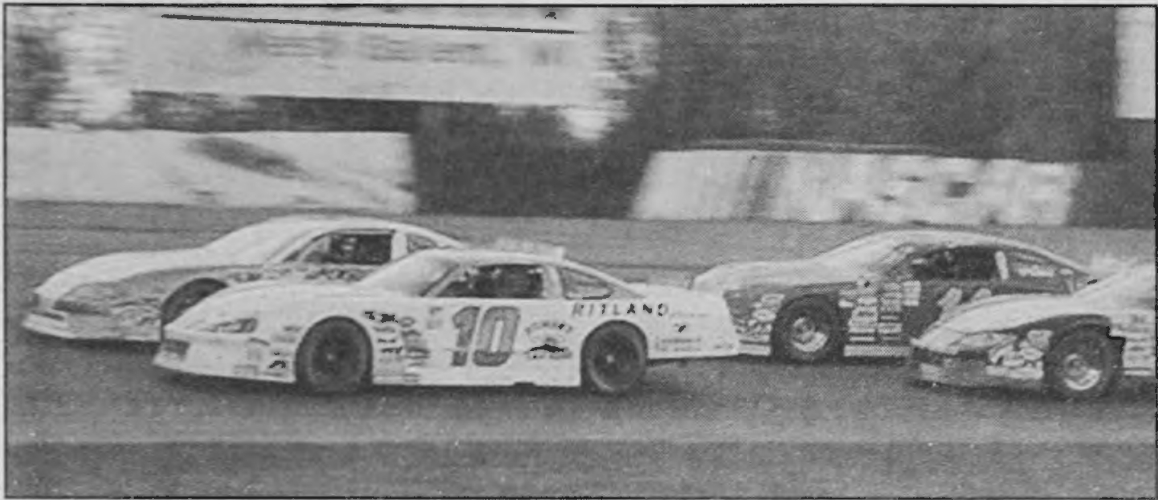
THE **Checker** RACING NEWS

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LaCrosse LM Win to Menard.....Page 2

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Ken Hutchens (10) leads the way during a NASCAR late model heat Saturday night at LaCrosse (WI) Fairgrounds Speedway. **See Page 2.**

(LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway photo)



Loren Langerud (56) and Chuck Swenson (X) dice for the lead on the final lap of the WISSOTA sprint feature Saturday night at the Cedar Lake Speedway near New Richmond, WI. **See Page 6.**

(Neal Eric Miller photo)



A group of Junior Box Stock 1 racers dice for position during the feature race in the class Sunday, April 24, at Sugar River Raceway in Brodhead, WI. Those pictured include Robert Martin (11), Joey Savala (3), Shaun Somar (88), Derick Hartman (8) and Brent Edmunds (87). Edmunds went on to win the feature race.

(Bob Cruse photo)



The top two finishers in the Dirt Devil division from 2004 - Jon Schultz (11x) and Mike Mueller (MOO) - participate in the open practice Saturday at The Raceway at Powercom Park in Beaver Dam, WI. Mueller won the division championship in '04, while Schultz finished second. **See Page 3.**

(Bob Cruse photo)



Daryn Pittman was solid in his victory during the World of Outlaws Sprint Series' appearance at 81 Speedway near Wichita, KS, on Saturday. **See Page 8.**

(Sean Mizell photo)

Menard Thrills Crowd with LaCrosse Win

by Nicole Korish

WEST SALEM, WI, April 23 -- Fans witnessed some red-hot racing on a freezing cold April night at the LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway Saturday night, as two track records fell during an action-packed race program.

Andy Burgess established a new late model track record when he turned a 19.656-second lap (99.756 mph) in qualifying, shattering the previous mark of 19.757 set by Blake Horstman on April 10, 2004. Burgess ran into trouble in his heat race, however, when something in his front suspension broke, catapulting him into the backstretch wall in a spectacular - and scary - crash. Burgess was not injured and borrowed a car from fellow competitor Adam Degenhardt for later action.

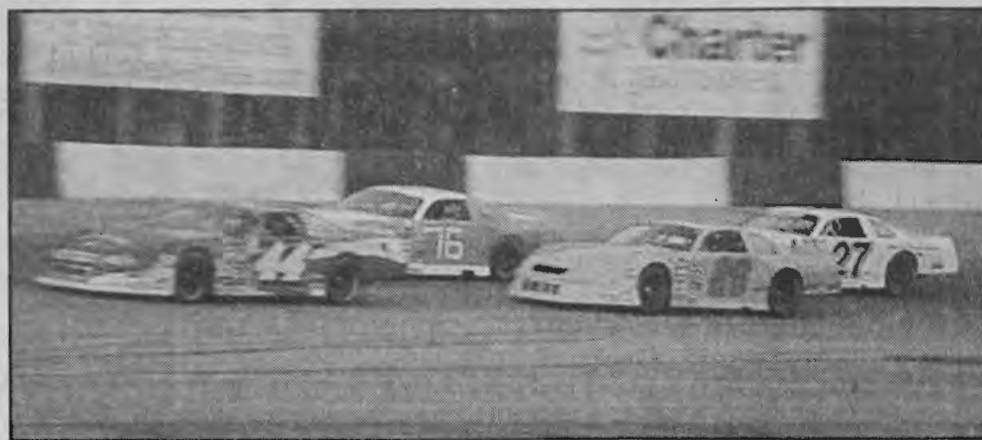
Charlie Menard, making his first appearance at the track this season after winning the late model title last season, started on the pole for the feature, led through four cautions, and held off charges from eight-time track champion Kevin Nuttleman and Mark Lamoreaux for the checkered flag. It was the 11th regular-season feature win for the 31-year-old in the last three seasons. Nuttleman threatened to swipe the lead from Menard on several occasions, and even had the inside groove on lap 24, but he couldn't overtake Menard, while Lamoreaux dashed and darted through the field and was poised to challenge Nuttleman but ran out of laps.

With only one caution in the Grand National Sportsman feature, Dan Gilster took the feature win. Aaron Hass started out in the lead, but after a battle Gilster steered his car into Victory Lane.

Jes Tenner of Melrose broke his own Sportsman qualifying record when he turned a lap of 22.014 seconds.

There was considerable three-wide racing in the Thunderstock feature, but Sparta's Brad Warthan took home the checkered flag. Jason Schaller led the pack for three-fourths of the race, but on lap 10 he spun into the wall, and Warthan took control for the remaining laps.

Hornet action saw Chris Johnson,



Sam Andersen (44) leads Mark Lamoreaux (26) in late model action Saturday at LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway.



Andy Burgess ran into trouble after colliding with another car during a late model heat at LaCrosse. Burgess set a new track record in qualifying earlier Saturday evening.

(LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway photos)

Rick Schermerhorn and Matt Moore take feature wins. The car of Keenan Stitt flew completely over the wall during one of the three features, as the field drew 73 cars. Jenny Snell was a little more fortunate, as she hung only half of her car over the wall. Both drivers were uninjured.

Action resumes next Saturday night.

RESULTS

NASCAR LATE MODELS

Feature: Charlie Menard, Eau Claire; Kevin

Nuttleman, Bangor; Mark Lamoreaux, Bloomington, MN; Sam Andersen, Melrose; Tony Bagstad, Cashton; Brent Kirchner, LaCrosse; Mike Belling, LaCrosse; Tom McClintock, LaCrosse; Todd Oliver, Bangor; Troy Goodenough, Mindoro.

B-Feature: John Towner, Trempealeau; Kraig Burrows, West Salem; Nicholas Schroeder, Cashton.

Qualifying: Andy Burgess, Fall Creek, 99.756 mph.

Heat 1: Kirchner; Andy Niles, Holmen; Burrows.

Heat 2: Bill Niles, Holmen; Curt Eckelberg,

West Salem; Ken Hutchens, Black River Falls. Odd Dash: Menard; Shawn Pfaff, Sparta; Lamoreaux.

Even Dash: Steve Holhausen, Bangor; Troy Goodenough, Mindoro; Nuttleman.

GRAND NATIONAL SPORTSMAN

Feature: Danny Gilster, West Salem; Aaron Hass, LaCrosse; Mike Albrecht, Jr., La Crescent, MN; Jimmy Gilster, West Salem; Lucas Korish, LaCrosse; Randy Steinhoff, Cashton; Trent Boettcher, La Crescent, MN; Josh Millis, Black River Falls; John Olson, Sparta; Jeremy Wagner, Melrose.

B-Feature: Daniel Linnehan, Sparta; Rob Mason, La Crescent, MN; Rob Curran, Rockland.

Qualifying: Jes Tenner, Melrose, 89.193 mph.

Heat 1: Randy Steinhoff; Ken Lewis, Black River Falls; Jason Dummer, Holmen.

Heat 2: Larry Bolster, Jr., Sparta; Boomer Olson, Viroqua; Curran.

Odd Dash: Bill Miller, Sparta; D. Gilster; Branden Berg, North Bend.

Even Dash: J. Gilster; Hass; Albrecht.

THUNDERSTOCK

Feature: Brad Warthan, Sparta; Justin Berg, Bangor; Jerry Aylsworth, LaCrosse; Jeff Rentz, Bangor; Adam Moore, Sparta; Andy Moore, Sparta; Jason Bolster, Sparta; Charlie Vian, Sparta; Jason Chandler, Black River Falls; Mary Schill, Cashton.

B-Feature: Schill; Ron Heller, Chaseburg; Ed Senn, LaCrosse.

C-Feature: Travis Schendel, Cashton; Kurt Abbott, Sparta; Kris Buldaupt, LaCrosse.

Dash: Wayne Smith, Barre Mills; Vian; Andy Moore.

Heat 1: Vian; Warthan; Jamie Dummer, Holmen.

Heat 2: Berg; Smith; Greg Lindvig, Holmen.

Heat 3: Adam Moore; Andy Moore; Rentz.

Heat 4: Vian; Al Bartels, Tomah; Aylsworth.

Heat 5: Bolster; Rusty Winchel, LaCrosse; Joey Johnson, Mindoro.

HORNETS

Feature 1: Chris Johnson, West Salem; Wade Elliott, Galesville; John Eron, Merrillan; Timothy Klug, Caledonia; Eric Komperud, Galesville; Reggie Lawson, New Albin; Chris Diehlmann, Onalaska; Ron Amann, West Salem; Ben Hehl, Whitehall; Matt Storlie, LaCrosse.

Feature 2: Rick Schermerhorn, LaCrosse; Jeff Heaney, Caledonia; Jim Schermerhorn, Coon Valley; Jerry Lemke, Rochester, MN; Nicki Hagen, La Crescent, MN; Andrew Scholze, Melrose; Melissa McCarthy, Holmen; Matt Faucett, Onalaska; Greg Hertzfeldt, Melrose; Trevor Chilson, LaCrosse.

Feature 3: Matt Moore, Tomah; Alan Van Vleet, Galesville; Shane Finnerud, Altura; Derrick Hammer, Galesville; Pete Muenkel, Caledonia; Kevin Turner, LaCrosse; Chris Sampson, LaCrosse; Jason Mork, Osseo; Joey Johnson, Holmen; Dana Berg, Eltrick.

Heat 1: Lemke; Eron; Damian Kelly.

Heat 2: Nate Towner; Kim Strem; Moore.

Heat 3: C. Johnson; Heaney; Hagen.

Heat 4: R. Schermerhorn; J. Schermerhorn; Elliott.

'Border Wars' Sites Different, Challenging

ROSSBURG, OH, April 23 - While the Eldora Speedway and Gas City I-69 Speedway share the billing for the 11th annual "Border Wars" event for non-winged USAC sprints on April 29-30, that is where the similarities end. And that is what makes this unique "series within a series" so popular among fans and challenging to race teams.

The Gas City oval, in Indiana, is a quarter-mile, semi-banked oval with tight racing grooves that produce extremely close competition, while Ohio's Eldora high-banked oval measures out at a half-mile, with a 90-foot-wide surface that allows for high speeds and room to run.

Even the time zones are different. The April 29 encounter at Gas City kicks off at 7:30 pm Eastern Standard Time, while the April 30 action at Eldora takes the green flag at 8 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

Established in 1995 by former Eldora owner Earl Baltes and the late Roger Holdeman of Winchester (IN) Speedway, Border Wars was created to commemorate the rich history of USAC racing along the Ohio-Indiana border by showcasing two speedways and running back-to-back race meets, with cumulative points rewarded to crown a champion.

Eldora's clay oval and Winchester's steeply-banked asphalt facility were the key Border Wars players and remained that way through 2003. With Winchester's sabbatical from racing last season, the Gas City speed plant - also within close proximity of the Ohio-Indiana border - jumped on board as a series participant. The two facilities are about one hour apart.

Current NASCAR star and new Eldora owner Tony Stewart was the inaugural champion, while Brian Tyler has four Border Wars championships to his credit. Tracy Hines is next with three titles, while J.J. Yeley and defending champion Jay Drake join Stewart as single-year title holders. To date, 20 Border Wars race meets have been contested, with 14 drivers winning features. Hines is tied with pavement specialist David Steele for the most feature wins at three each.

The Border Wars event will also pay valuable USAC National championship points.

Chase for Jefferson Championship Begins Saturday

JEFFERSON, WI -- Nearly 150 of the area's best race teams are expected to begin their march to the 2005 season championship this Saturday night at the Jefferson Speedway. Last year's champs Dan Chesmore (late models), Mark Deporter (sportsman), Scotty Hoeft (International division) and Terry Wangsness (hobby

stocks), are expected to defend their championships, while 2004 Bandit champ Bill Sweeney will campaign in the International class in 2005.

Chesmore's chief competition in 2005 includes Chad Stevens of Orfordville, John Ovadal, Jr., of Watertown, Jason Erickson of Cambridge, Steve Dobbratz of Rio, Ken Olson of Fort Atkinson, Tim

Noble of Janesville, Roger Behlke of Jefferson, Mike Taylor of McFarland, Chris Quam of Stoughton, Dylan Schuyler of Dousman and Doug Hahn of Whitewater.

Deporter's defense of his championship has been made more difficult by the return to the division of three accomplished late model racers. Scott Riedner of Waunakee, Jay Kalbus of Dousman and Steve Seals of Janesville join a tough list of challengers led by Trent Erdman of Fort Atkinson, Ryan Goldade of Stoughton, Luke Padfield of Jefferson and Dave Oswald of

Cottage Grove.

Hoeft will face a stiff challenge in his attempt to repeat, as top contenders include Steve Allman of Oconomowoc, Chris Nelson of Cottage Grove, Mark English of Janesville, Joe Cross of Sun Prairie, Bill Sweeney of Janesville, Ron Nelson of Utica and Chris Gottschalk of Jefferson.

Wangsness' effort will be challenged by the return of nearly every top contender from last year, plus a few transfers from other area tracks. Pete Elgas of Janesville, Jim Tate of Watertown,

Ean Carson of Whitewater, Johnny Robinson of Beloit, Dennis Schmidt of Johnson Creek, Bryan Grassl of Janesville, Ken Au of Jefferson, Russ Nicholson of Stoughton and Jim Williams of Milton are expected to keep the pressure on Wangsness.

The first event of the season will include the extended-length "Spring Sizzler 50" for the late models. Gates open at 2 pm, with time trials at 4:30 and the first race at 7 pm. The Jefferson Speedway is located six miles west of Jefferson, or five miles east of Cambridge, on Highway 18.

Jefferson WCS Go Lost to Weather; Event Rescheduled for May 21

JEFFERSON, WI, April 22 -- The Star Packaging 100 at Jefferson Speedway set for Saturday evening, April 23, was won by Mother Nature.

The show, featuring the Wisconsin Challenge Series super late models, has been moved to Saturday evening, May 21 - a date that was settled on after several quick conversations with area track promoters to determine if it would cause conflicts. In order to support the super late model drivers intending to compete in the event, the Dells Motor Speedway will drop super late models from their schedule for that night, while the Marshfield Super Speedway will run a program that does not include super lates that night.

Winter-like weather rolled into the Jefferson area on Friday morning, bringing rain, plummeting temperatures and increasing winds. A forecast calling for continued unseasonably cold temperatures and strong winds that could produce wind-chill temperatures as low as 20 degrees prompted both Speedway and WCS officials to cancel and reschedule the event.

"The changes were made with the race fan in mind," noted WCS events director Jeffrey Sachse. "We want to hold (the show) at a time when fans can enjoy the program. We're betting the mid-May date will have more hospitable weather."

The rescheduled show will run on the same schedule of events as the postponed one. In addition to the super late models, a full program of Sportsman,

hobby stock, International four-cylinder and entry-level Bandit four-cylinder classes will compete. Pit gates will open at noon, practice is set for 1 pm, qualifying will begin at 4 and the first green flag of the day will fly at 7 pm.

Jefferson Speedway is located on halfway between Cambridge and Jefferson on Highway 18.

Rain, Cold Put Clamps on Eldora

ROSSBURG, OH, April 22 -- Inclement weather conditions prompted the cancellation of all planned activities on the half-mile clay Eldora Speedway oval for Saturday, April 23.

A slow-moving cold front brought in over a half-inch of rain by Friday noon, and with more expected throughout the weekend, the grounds and surface were unsuitable for racing action. Temperatures for Saturday were forecasted for the mid-20s with wet snow also expected.

The All Star sprints were expected to make their 2005 Eldora debut, but now they aren't slated to return to Eldora until June 25. The autograph session that was planned for last Saturday will also be part of the June 25 meet, which will also kick off Ohio's Sprint Speedweek for the All Stars.

The modifieds and stock cars, also scheduled to run April 23, will join the USAC non-winged sprints next Saturday, April 30, for Border Wars XI, they aren't slated to return to Eldora until June 25.



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Hot Laps

WIR Begins Tuesday Practices

KAUKAUNA, WI -- Weekly Tuesday night practice sessions have begun at Wisconsin International Raceway in Kaukauna.

The half-mile and quarter-mile tracks will be open for one-at-a-time stock car practices every Tuesday beginning at 3:30 pm. The practice sessions run until darkness.

There will be no practice session on Tuesday night, August 2, as the "Tuesday Night Shootout," featuring an American Stock Car League 150-lap event and several other races, is scheduled.

The track is located three miles south of Kaukauna at the corner of Highway 55 and County Trunk KK.

2005 National Speedway Directory Now Available

COMSTOCK PARK, MI, April 21 -- The 2005 edition of the *National Speedway Directory* is now available and lists a total of 1,430 auto racing facilities. It is the most comprehensive listing of active tracks in the United States and Canada available.

The book lists detailed information on 1,078 oval tracks, 337 dragstrips and 91 road courses. The phone numbers, addresses, exact directions, nights of operation and types of racing offered are included in this 608-page paperback book. Listings for 280 sanctions, 104 racing publications and 53 racing-related museums pushes the total of listings in the directory to over 1,800.

The 2005 schedules for 115 circuits are also included.

The price for one copy of the *National Speedway Directory* is \$13, including first-class postage and handling; two copies are available for \$23, including S&H. *NSDs* are available through many track vendors, or send a check or money order to *National Speedway Directory*, P O Box 448, Comstock Park, MI 49321-0448 for copies.

Kentucky Speedway Gets SAFER Walls

SPARTA, KY -- Kentucky Speedway will invest \$1 million to install the second generation of the Steel and Foam Energy Reduction (SAFER) Barrier System inside the concrete retaining wall that spans turns 1 through 2 and turns 3 through 4 of the 1.5-mile tri-oval track at the facility.

Installation will begin after the season-opening ARCA Re/Max Series race there on May 14 and will be complete before the June 18 NASCAR Busch Series event. Installation will take place at night and will not interrupt the ongoing and frequent race team testing at the speedway.

The SAFER Barrier System first was installed on the four outside retaining walls of the 2.5-mile oval at Indianapolis (IN) Motor Speedway in May 2002. The track installed the second generation of the system this past February. In all, 12 of the 14 oval venues which host Indy Racing League events have installed the SAFER Barrier.

Dirt Racing P.R. Rep McCullers Passes

by Doc Lehman

ATLANTA, GA, April 20 -- Brandon Keith McCullers, 28, a motorsports public relations representative, passed away on April 1 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta after a long battle with cancer.

McCullers worked for the past five years in public relations and media representation for a number of dirt late model racers and teams, most notably Steve Francis and Steve Francis Racing. In addition, McCullers also worked for several years for Victory Lane Communications in Georgia and at one time was an Internet columnist. He was employed by Reinhardt College in Waleska, GA.

McCullers was born November 5, 1976, in Dekalb County, GA, the son of Sammy and Dean (Cape) McCullers. He is survived by his father and mother, both of Jasper; his fiancée, Carolyn McCullen of Monticello; his grandmother, Doris Detry of Loganville; his uncle and aunt, Wally and Mandy Bowcutt of Jasper; another aunt, Denis McCullers of Monroe; and cousins Robyn, Kerri and Micah.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Brandon McCullers Scholarship Fund at Reinhardt College. Please send donations to the Office of Institutional Advancement, 7300 Reinhardt College Circle, Waleska, GA 30183.

Cards and notes can reach the family at McCullers Family, c/o Reinhardt College, Attn: O.I.A., at the same address.

Tickets to Local World of Outlaws Shows Available Through SLS

FOX LAKE, WI -- SLS Promotions will kick its ticket office into high gear to provide race fans with access to a number of race events in the Upper Midwest.

A hectic week in June features the World of Outlaws Sprint Series visiting Michigan's I-96 Speedway on Thursday, June 9; Wisconsin's Sheboygan County Fair Park on Saturday, June 11; and Indiana's Kokomo Speedway on Tuesday, June 14. Tickets are currently available for both the I-96 and Sheboygan events, while passes for the Kokomo show will go on sale soon.

The current "hot ticket" at SLS is for the July 29-30 Princeton Nationals, to be held just north of Minnesota's Twin Cities. The WoO bunch will also perform in Minnesota on Friday, September 23, at Jackson Speedway; tickets are available for that program, too.

Tickets are also currently on sale for the

Wednesday, July 27, WoO appearance at Michigan's Hartford Speedway Park, and for the Wednesday, August 3, program at Indiana's Lawrenceburg Speedway. Non-winged sprints will join the nationally traveling outlaws at Lawrenceburg again this year.

SLS is offering savings on tickets purchased in advance and additionally offers a reserve seat-pit pass combination ticket, which is only available with an advance purchase. SLS has also announce more "kid-friendly" pricing in the reserved-seating sections, and raindates have been secured.

Tickets are on sale now by calling SLS at (815) 344-2023.

The Raceway at Powercom Park in Beaver Dam, WI, will host a pair of WoO shows, on Wednesday, July 6, and Saturday, September 24. Tickets are available for those shows by specifically calling the track at (920) 887-1600.

Cregger Posts Win in First Visit to Elko

ELKO, MN, April 23 -- Veteran Midwest Enduro Series driver Rick Cregger's first visit to Elko Speedway was fruitful, to say the least. The Madison, WI, driver picked up the top prize by winning Saturday's "Enduromanía 240."

Cregger inherited the lead with a dozen laps left after the top two cars headed for the pits. Cregger was followed across the line by Mike Kasperek, Jerry Schoepke, Jim Schoepke and Les Wiedenhoef.

Lakeville's Kyle McNearney was able to keep his Hornet on track to claim the win in the Hornet Enduro 100. He finished in front of Robert Schnichels, Nathan McHale, Dan Heyda and Adam Hertaus.

A hearty crowd braved the less-than-favorable weather to watch the race from the track's new grandstand. The stands will be officially christened this Saturday night as the weekly racing season kicks off. Gates will open at 5:30 and the first

green flag is set for 7 pm. For tickets and information, call the speedway at (800) 479-3630 or (952) 461-7223.

RESULTS

HORNET 100

1-10: Kyle McNearney, Lakeville; Mike Kawell, Elko; Robert Schnichels, Elko; Nathan McHale, Elko; Daniel Heyda, New Prague; Adam Hertaus, New Prague; Jerome Ilstrup, Anoka; Brian Stejskal, Apple Valley; Jay Barta, Andover; Justin Pieper, Kilkenny; Travis Pasch, Lonsdale.

11-20: Billy Mohn, Lakeville; Jim Bratsch, Montgomery; Patrick Puncchar, New Prague; Tom Adams, Chanhassen; Jared Hagstrom, Spring Valley; Josh Stokes, Lino Lakes; Tracy Johnson, Faribault; Tyler James, Inver Grove Heights; Mark Cahow, Lakeville; Kurtis Skluzacek, Lonsdale.

21-30: Timothy Halloran, Circle Pines; Michael Flaa, Farmington; Scott Westpahl, Farmington; Travis Larson, Eagan; Brad Bockwitz, Minnetonka; Blake Dorweiler, Montgomery; Shawn Grabinger, Medford; Shawn Carpenter, Marshallfield, WI; Bill Gilomen, Northfield; Jeremy Frederick, Robbinsdale.

31-40: Donald Skluzacek, Lonsdale; Josh Kryzer, Inver Grove Heights; Tim Balfe, Montgomery; Shawn Egan, Eagan; Troy Tuma, New Prague; Andrew Bisek, New Prague; Brandon Rice, Elko; Martin Nickelson, Prior Lake;

Tim Jackson, New Richmond, WI; Matt Ryan, Elko.

41-45: Brian Hillinghouse, Oak Creek, WI; Jason Pulczynski, Lino Lakes; Mark Holie, Burnsville; Jesse Sauve, Duluth; Chad Bandy, Duluth.

ENDUROMANIA 240

1-10: Rick Cregger, Madison, WI; Mike Kasperek, Clintonville, WI; Jerry Schoepke, Jim Schoepke, Maple Grove; Les Wiedenhoef, Jackson, WI; Jesse Fischer, Eagan; Steve Motley, Corcoran; Jeff Saylor, Howards Grove, WI; Tom Ruh, Elkhart Lake, WI; Dan McCarthy, Bloomington.

11-20: Ben Nesbitt, Andover; Mark Bronstad, Rockford; Dustin Mann, Dundas; Jeff Jeras, Rockford, IL; Frank Calabrese, Shiocton, WI; Mike Rahman, Dundas; Harold Feldt, Beloit, WI; Ralph Fogel, Kewaskum, WI; Joe Tacheny, Mankato; Rory Smith, Eagan.

21-30: Kari Miller, New Prague; Jeff Ricker, East Bethel; Tom Carr, Beloit, WI; Louis, Minnetonka; Bryan Adams, Chanhassen; Brian Blenker, Junction City, WI; Dennis Barta, Richfield; Chuck Grabowski, Corcoran; Jason Pulczynski, Lino Lakes; Paul Bryce Lally, Savage.

31-36: Gerald Hayes, Monee, IL; Scott Harter, Forest Lake; Josh Gernentz, Red Wing; Brian Buetow, Cologne; Todd Tacheny, Mankato; Matt Schlick, Cortland, IL.

Powercom Park Hosts First Practice Session

by Dennis Thompson

BEAVER DAM, WI, April 23

-- The roar of engines filled the air Saturday afternoon at The Raceway at Powercom Park, as cars took to the track for the first time this season. The event was the first of two inspection and practice days scheduled at the track; the second inspection and practice day will take place on Saturday, April 30.

The inspection and practice days are very valuable to the drivers and their teams, as they allows them to run their cars through the inspection process prior to the first racing event of the season. It also provides a great opportunity to get in some valuable track time in preparation for the season ahead.

Despite windy and cold conditions, nearly 70 cars participated in Saturday's event representing ten different racing divisions. Modifieds and dirt devils provided the biggest turnout, while other divisions represented included grand nationals, stocks, legends, late models, midgets, sprints, mini-sprints and USAC Silver Crown cars.

The first racing event of the season at Powercom Park will take place on Saturday, May 7, when the USAC National Sprint Car and the National Midget Car Series take to the third-mile high-banked clay oval. This is the second con-



Michael Weber (69) and Steve Boelter were among the drivers in the modified division to practice Saturday at R@PP. (Bob Cruse photo)

secutive season that R@PP will host a USAC National sprint-midget doubleheader. The program last season proved to be one of the most exciting open-wheel events of the season, and this year's show should once again be one of premier open-wheel shows of the year. It is one of just two events for the sprints to be run in Wisconsin this

season and the only one on dirt, while the midgets make only three appearances in this state this season. The World of Outlaws sprints are back for two programs this season. Their first event is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, while the second program will take place on Saturday, September 24.

The regular weekly season opener is set for Saturday, May 14, and will feature modifieds, stocks, the Wisconsin Legends Dirt Racing Series, Grand Nationals and dirt devils. The Wisconsin Dirt Late Model Association will run every other week during the regular Saturday night shows, with their first appearance of the season slated for May 21.

USAC Non-Winged Sprints & Midgets The Only Time in Wisconsin in 2005!



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Racing at 4PM Rain Date: Sunday, May 8

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26th Gopher 50 to Include Many Changes

BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN, April 25 -- The 26th annual Gopher 50 charity race, scheduled for Monday, June 6, has gone through many changes for the 2005 edition, including a new location, an earlier race date, a new promotional partnership, new sponsors and a new sanctioning group.

After 23 years of running the event at the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna, this year's race will be held at the 3/8th-mile Deer Creek Speedway in Racine, which is about 18 miles south of Rochester. Deer Creek is one of the Midwest's finer race facilities and offers spectators and drivers a super-fast race track, a new 1,600-seat grandstand addition, first-class suites and decks, and a campground for overnight visitors.

Three new sponsors - Peterbilt, Valley Transportation and Premier Banks - have teamed up for a major commitment to support the Gopher 50.

The World of Outlaws will sanction the event in 2005. The series is the only national late model touring group and will bring with it some of the country's best drivers including former Gopher 50 winners Scott Bloomquist and Billy Moyer. Defending race winner Brian Birkhofer is also expected to compete for the winner's check of \$10,000. Local modifieds will also be competing that night.

The earlier race date was chosen to accommodate the sanctioning body's traveling race teams and provide for a better race surface than what can be achieved later in the summer.

Also, after 25 years the Blooming Prairie Jaycees have turned management of the event over to the Blooming Prairie Lions Club.

Group bus trips are being organized in Faribault, Owatonna, Waseca, Mankato, Albert Lea and Mason City, IA, for race fans' convenience. For bus information, call Jerry Ingvalson at (507) 456-2516; tickets and other race information is available by contacting the Speedway office at (507) 754-6107.

Kenseth, Other Cup Drivers to Compete at Eldora June 8

ROSSBURG, OH, April 19 -- Officials of Eldora Speedway have announced Tuesday its upcoming "Prelude to the Dream" event, set for Wednesday, June 8.

The renowned half-mile clay oval is owned by 2002 NASCAR Nextel Cup Series champion Tony Stewart, who will be joined by several other Cup stars for a round of late model dirt-track competition. The unique event is scheduled between the June 4 World of Outlaws Sprint Series race and the \$100,000-to-win Dirt Late Model Dream on June 10-11.

Stewart, a multi-time race winner at Eldora, will headline the list of entrants on June 8, joined by Bobby Labonte, Stewart's Joe Gibbs Racing teammate and the 2000 Cup Series champion; 2003 Cup champion Matt Kenseth; five-time Cup race winner Kevin Harvick; eight-time Cup winner Kyle Petty; dirt-racing veterans and NASCAR stars Ken

Schrader and Kenny Wallace; and Ohio native Dave Blaney, who compiled an impressive Eldora record in winged sprint cars before heading to NASCAR. Blaney's resume includes two wins in Eldora's prestigious \$50,000-to-win Kings Royal, six World of Outlaw sprint feature victories, and three All Star Circuit of Champions main event triumphs.

"This is going to be a great event," said Stewart. "Eldora has always tried to go above and beyond for its fans, and that's something we plan to continue with this event. We'll have some of the best race car drivers in the world competing right here at Eldora."

Additional Nextel Cup drivers are being recruited for the "Prelude to the Dream," as well as some top names from within the World of Outlaws.

The busy night will also mark the debut of the Fastrak Champions Series to Eldora. Organized by Stan Lester and

based in Carnesville, GA, Fastrak was designed to offer a cost-conscious alternative to escalating dirt late model expenses. A Fastrak car resembles a standard dirt late model, with a tube-frame, enclosed cockpit and full fenders, but the power plant is restricted to one of three sealed General Motors-produced crate engines. Cost modifications are not permitted, in order to maintain a level playing field for all competitors.

The "Prelude" event will not be a Fastrak points-paying event, but Lester and his staff have indicated that competing at Eldora has prompted immense interest from within the Fastrak membership.

Tickets for the "Prelude to the Dream" go on sale at 9 am (EDT) on Monday, May 2. Ticket orders can be placed at that time by calling (937) 338-3815.

Mother Nature Dominates in Slinger Opener

Practice, Twin 75s rescheduled

SLINGER, WI, April 23 -- Strong winds and temperatures forecast in the 40s made Slinger Super Speedway officials' choice easy to postpone this past weekend's activities. Both Saturday's practice and Sunday's twin 75-lap features have been rescheduled for next weekend.

On Sunday afternoon, May 1, the late models will headline the season-opening event, joined with Midwest modifieds and the Midwest Sportsman division. Gates will open at noon, time trials will be held at 1 pm, and racing will start at 2.

On Saturday, April 30, fans can view the rescheduled practice day from noon-4 pm. Divisions competing in 2005 at Slinger and practicing on Saturday include late models, Midwest mods, Midwest Sportsman, Thunderstocks, Slinger Bees and figure-8s. General admission on practice day is free.

The Sunday afternoon, May 8, program will be the last afternoon show this spring before the track changes to Sunday night racing on May 15. The May 8 event will be the Mother's Day 60; carnations will be presented to the first 500 moms in attendance. Gates will open at noon, time trials are at 1 pm, and racing starts at 2.

There are select advertising and sponsorship opportunities as well as company and group outings available for the 2005 season. For more information, contact the Speedway's public relations department at (262) 370-0440 or the track office at (262) 644-5921.

Patterson Awaits Homecoming Visit with ALMS

ROSSBURG, OH, April 22 -- As defending champion of the American Late Model Series, Kris Patterson is anxiously awaiting the weekend of April 29-30, when the

Series visits his home state of Michigan for a doubleheader.

In fact, both stops - at I-96 Speedway in Ionia on Friday night and Crystal Motor Speedway on Saturday - are within a short distance of Patterson's St. Johns home base, and he is hoping that the stops will get his 2005 season back on track.

Going into the Wolverine state twin bill, Patterson finds himself sixth in the Series point standings. Aaron Scott, who led for the majority of the 2004 season before giving way to Patterson late in the campaign, heads up the current ALMS points chase.

Patterson has knowledge of both Michigan tracks, with victories at each venue. But Scott is also familiar, especially at I-96, where he ranks as the most recent ALMS winner. The Crystal event was rained out last year.

Schedule Finalized for I-70 ASL Opener

BAILEYS HARBOR, WI -- A few small changes have been made to the final schedule of events for the opening race of the newly-organized American StockCar League at I-70 Speedway in Odessa, MO, to give competitors the maximum amount of practice time.

The series has updated practice times to allow for adjustments to the newly-mandated Goodyear tires and to allow new teams moving into this type of car more test time. A Friday, April 29, practice session and media day will run from 3-6:30 pm on the high-banked half-mile paved oval.

The pit area then will open at 9 am on Saturday, April 30 - two hours earlier than what

was posted on the official entry forms sent out to the ASL teams. Practice will run through 2:30 pm. A drivers' meeting at 2:45 pm will be followed by official technical inspections; only safety-related items will be inspected prior to practice.

The new schedule will assure race teams not arriving until Saturday that they will receive plenty of practice time.

Qualifying remains scheduled at 5:30 pm, and racing begins at 7, topped by the 150-lap ASL feature. I-70 cars will also be running a feature race during the evening.

For more information about tickets or motels, contact the Speedway at (816) 230-0080.

Snow, Cold Force LGR Cancellation

LAKE GENEVA, WI, April 23 -- The third week of stock car racing at Lake Geneva Raceway was forced into cancellation Saturday night due to snow, wind and cold.

Next Saturday night the first Midwest Sportsman Championship Series event will take place. Two-time Series champion Jeremy Miller of Rockton, IL, will be back to defend his title, as a field of over 22 cars is expected.

This series, run three times each at LGR and Slinger Super Speedway, is in its third season and is designed toward racers that don't travel extensively. There is a points fund and a drawing for a racer to win a racing engine short-block.

Super late models and super stocks will also compete. There is no increase in spectator admission. Time trials begin at 5:45, and the first race is at 7 pm.

Marshfield Program Called

MARSHFIELD, WI, April 23 -- Marshfield Super Speedway officials cancelled the track's races scheduled for April 23 and the raindate of April 24 due to inclement weather.

The next race is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, but with no Sunday raindate. Pits open at 3:30 pm, the grandstands open at 5, qualifying is at 6 pm and racing starts at 7:30. The program will feature super late models, limited late models, super stocks and one-man cruisers.

CAPTAIN TRAILER SALES



Back on June 22, 1975 Junior Dunn of Roscoe, IL clobbered the turn one wall at Wisconsin International Raceway in Kaukauna after he avoided the spinning car of Pat Griffin (72). The incident occurred on the 15th lap of the 20-lap semi-feature race that was part of the Red Race. Dunn's Camaro was stopped by the catch fence and dropped back to the track where Dunn crawled out. He suffered minor injuries including a sprained ankle and bumps and bruises.

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Final Tire Test Goes Well for ASL Opener

ODESSA, MO -- A final tire test at I-70 Speedway in Odessa, in preparation for the initial race of the newly-organized American StockCar League, went extremely well on Wednesday, April 20.

The opening race, a 150-lapper, is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, at 7 pm on the high-banked half-mile paved oval.

"The tires we tested today were actually an improvement over last year's tires," said ASL driver Peter Cozzolino of Indianapolis, IN, who drove for the test.

"This was the last phase in a process that should make for a great racing event (on April 30)," said I-70 Speedway president Brad McDonald.

"We had to wait out the rain for about six hours," noted Fred Duvall of Goodyear Tire. "A completely dry track should mean a rocket fast race." Duvall said the Goodyear radials are the same as those used in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series.

"We are extremely pleased with the test results done by Peter Cozzolino and Rick Beebe," Duvall added. "We will have a very good tire at I-70 for this historic ASL opener. We clicked off some very respectable times, even though the track was not completely dry."

For additional information, contact Competition Tire at (517) 592-6681.

SPRINT CAR RACES

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Series Web Site: www.irasprints.com

Cold Weather Forces Cancellation at Rockford

by Kevin Ramsell

LOVES PARK, IL, April 23 -- Winter-like April weather forced Rockford Speedway officials to cancel its racing program for Saturday, April 23.

With winds out of the north gusting at 31 mph, officials felt that it was in the best interest of fans, drivers, team and staff that the program be canceled.

Loves Park Night, which was scheduled for Saturday night, has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 14. On that night, all Loves Park residents, with proof of residence, can get a general admission ticket for five dollars.

Saturday night, April 30, is family night. Fans will receive two adult tickets, two children's tickets, four hot dogs and four sodas for \$30.

The Allison Legacy cars that were scheduled to race on April 23 will be rescheduled for a later date.

For more information, please call the track office at (815) 633-1500.

ASL Procedure Changes Designed to Reduce Yellows

BAILEYS HARBOR, WI -- When many of the former ASA National Tour teams compete in the American Stock Car League opener at the I-70 Speedway in Odessa, MO, on Saturday night at 7 pm, they will find procedural changes designed to reduce caution-flag laps.

"One of the biggest complaints I heard from race fans about the former series was that too much of the race was consumed by caution-flag laps," said ASL president Gary Vercauteren. "We have found in our other Mid-American divisions that the best way to reduce this is to put drivers included in spins and crashes to the rear on restarts."

That rule will be one of the major changes on the tour. A number of drivers from other Mid-American divisions are moving into the ASL and already understand how the rule works.

"Rough driving will have a consequence," Vercauteren said. "Those involved with go to the rear of the line-up on restarts."

In addition, races will be shortened to 150 or 200 laps, and each ASL feature will be

stopped at the halfway mark for a ten-minute break. Teams will be allowed to make adjustments during those breaks, but if they change tires they will be penalized to the rear of the field for the restart. Each team will be allowed four new tires to use in the race, along with two used marked tires in their pit area. Tire changes will be allowed under green- or yellow-flag periods without penalty.

Other changes include:

- a dice roll will determine the starting feature line-up. The invert will be six plus the dice-roll number;
- once the season gets underway, four drivers will be added to each feature based on their standings in the ASL points;
- yellow-flag laps will be counted except during the final 30 laps of each feature race; and
- all restarts will be single-file.

Complete procedure packages will be distributed to competitors at drivers' meetings prior to each event.

For more information, call the series office at (920) 823-2856.

IRA Sprinters Revved Up for 2005 Opener

McHENRY, IL -- The Bumper to Bumper IRA Outlaw Sprint Series officially gets its 2005 points season underway this Saturday night, April 30, at the Dodge County Fairgrounds Speedway in Beaver Dam, WI.

The half-mile is the site for the annual Rick Schmidt Memorial. Wayne Johnson, who won a non-points-paying IRA event at the Southern Iowa Speedway in Oskaloosa on April 16, was last year's Schmidt Memorial victor.

A talented field is expected on Saturday, including five past and current IRA champions. Reigning champ Scotty Neitzel, who hails from Beaver Dam,

begins his title defense, while nine-time IRA king Joe Roe will take aim for title number ten. Two-time champ Kim Mock and 2002 king John Haeni are also considered title contenders again this year, while Donny Goeden will participate in this event as part of the 1999 champ's limited 2005 schedule.

A host of others certainly will compete in the 2005 IRA campaign and attempt a possible visit to victory lane Saturday night. Past DCFS winner and track record holder Travis Whitney and 2004 Dodge County victors Mike Kertscher and Mike Reinke are solid runners, while strong DCFS performances have been

turned in by many others on the current IRA roster, including Todd Hepfner, Kurt Davis, Steve Meyer, Scott Biertzer, John Sernett, Scott Uttech and Jim Melis. Others, such as Billy Warren, Mike Stefka, Dave Uttech, Ty Bartz, Wayne Modjeski, Jason Johnson, Joe Symoens, Kurt Winker and Brian Kristan are poised for their first DCFS triumph in the special 23-lap main, which salutes long-time IRA supporter Schmidt, who carried the number 23 when he drove.

A field of nearly 40 winged 410 sprinters is expected, including 2005 rookie-of-the-year candidates Billy Balog, Lloyd Dykstra, Matt Folstad and K.J. Skelton.

Luxemburg Speedway Ready for Opener

LUXEMBURG, WI -- Track officials from Luxemburg Speedway are busy preparing for the season-opening stock car race program on Friday night, April 30.

2005 will mark the fourth season that Lakeshore Promotions has headed up the weekly Friday night program at the Kewaunee County Fairgrounds. Racing on the third-mile clay oval begins at 7 pm.

Drivers will have a new surface to race on this year, as more than 7,000 yards of clay was recently added to the track. The surface features much steeper banking and wider corners. Additional speakers have been added in the pit area and in the grandstand, and a new souvenir trailer will sell racing-related merchandise underneath the grandstand.

IMCA modifieds, stock cars and hobby stocks and the track's own sport fours will compete weekly. The track's new division, the Lady Fours, will race every other week beginning opening night.

Nearly 100 drivers representing nine different divisions took part in an open practice session at the track on April 23. 2004 Luxemburg mod champion Scott Mullen of Seymour has indi-

cated he will race "three-fourths" of the regular season, which could put that division's title up for grabs. Kewaunee's Shawn Kilgore has a new car with which to defend his stock car championship. Fellow Kewaunee driver Keith Kickbush will attempt to win his third hobby stock crown in a row, while hometown driver Tyler Smith will defend his sport four crown.

In addition to the weekly racing, the track will feature several other divisions visiting throughout the season. A pair of Wisconsin Dirt Late Model Association shows and programs featuring the IRA Outlaw Sprint Series and the United States Touring Modified Series will be run, and specials that will feature winged supermodifieds from Eastern Wisconsin Stock Car Association and limited late models from the Shawano and Manitowoc tracks are also scheduled. Five street stock specials are also on tap.

Luxemburg Speedway is located 15 minutes east of Green Bay off Highway 54 at the Kewaunee County Fairgrounds. For more information, call (920) 863-8446; the track phone is (920) 845-2300.

Mid-Am Announces Comprehensive Marketing Effort

BAILEYS HARBOR, WI -- Mid-American Stock Car, Inc., the parent company for five Midwestern-based paved short-track stock car divisions, including the newly-formed American Stock Car League, has announced the development of its first comprehensive marketing and promotion effort in conjunction with sports marketing consultancy TRI.

"We believe the growth of our organization and the five distinct racing series we sanction have reached the point where corporations - particularly firms with regional marketing needs - can benefit greatly from an association with our events," noted series president Gary Vercauteren. "TRI has the motorsports and marketing background that can greatly benefit our teams and any corporations that decide to become involved

with us.

"Our goal is to align with a select few companies or brands that can take maximum marketing advantage of the opportunities presented by our racing series."

TRI, with offices in Illinois and Wisconsin, will act as the primary marketing representative for all five touring divisions. TRI recently produced a comprehensive marketing package for Mid-American Stock Car, Inc., which includes an eight-minute DVD presentation highlighting the sanctioning body's attributes and capabilities.

"The combined efforts of TRI and Mid-American Stock Car, Inc., means that we will go the extra mile for sponsors," Vercauteren said. "Any company choosing to become part of our program will receive not only the normal sponsorship benefits associ-

ated with racing, but creative program implementation as well."

Sponsorships will aid the series' point funds and drivers' prize money. The series has already put together contingency awards exceeding

\$450,000 for 2005.

Some 71 Mid-Am events will be staged in nine different states, with over 600 drivers expected to participate.

For more information call the series office at (920) 823-2856.

Official Fuel, Additional Sponsor for ASL Named

BAILEYS HARBOR, WI -- Sunoco 92-octane racing fuel has recently been named the official fuel of the American Stock Car League.

The fuel will be distributed by Schwanke Racing Engines of Springfield, MN, and will be available in 55-gallon plastic containers beginning at the ASL opener, to be held on Saturday night, April 30, at I-70 Speedway in Odessa, MO.

ASL teams may purchase either a complete barrel of the fuel or split barrels amongst themselves at the track. Pumps will be available for teams wishing to split barrels.

All teams must make their fuel purchases prior to qualifying. There will be a refundable deposit on the containers.

For additional information, contact Schwanke Engines at (507) 723-4120.

Also announced, Appleton Rack and Pinions has posted contingency awards for the top three points finishers in the 2005 ASL standings.

Certificates for Appleton products will be awarded at the Series' banquet on Saturday, November 5, at the Leatham Smith Lodge in Sturgeon Bay.

Phone (920) 823-2856 for additional information on Appleton Rack and Pinions.

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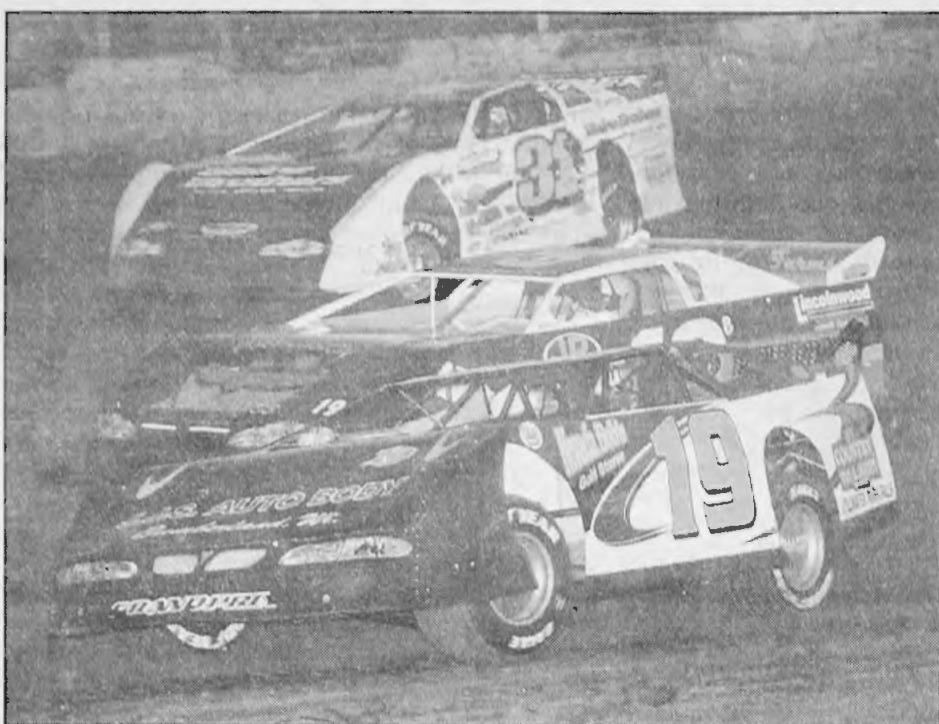
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Jam-Packed Pit Provides for Action-Packed Evening at CLS

NEW RICHMOND, WI, April 23 -- Although temperatures dipped into the 30s, 174 racers checked into the Cedar Lake Speedway pit area Saturday night, including 33 WISSOTA winged sprint cars returning after being rained out last weekend. This was also the first CLS event in which the super late models were required to run Goodyear racing tires.

As the modified feature took the green flag Paul Harelstad jumped immediately to the front, followed by Dann Olson. By lap 9 Tyler Keyser had pulled even with Harelstad, but he suffered a breakdown. On the restart a battle for the lead developed between Craig Thatcher and Harelstad for over three laps, but by lap 15 Thatcher drove by and began pulling away before a caution flag fell. On that restart Thatcher pulled away to pick up his first feature win of the season in defense of his national points title.

Mike Nutzmänn took off to the early lead in the super late model feature, but Joel Cryderman soon motored by. A lap 5 caution slowed the field, but on the restart Cryderman checked out on the field. Nutzmänn was challenged by Brent Larson for second, and the two swapped the position several times over a five-lap period, before a caution for Justin Fegers on lap 25 set up a five-lap shootout. Nutzmänn drove hard trying to slip past Cryderman, but the Canadian veteran driver clinched the win, followed by Nutzmänn, Larson, Pat Doar and a hard-charging Trent Follmer.

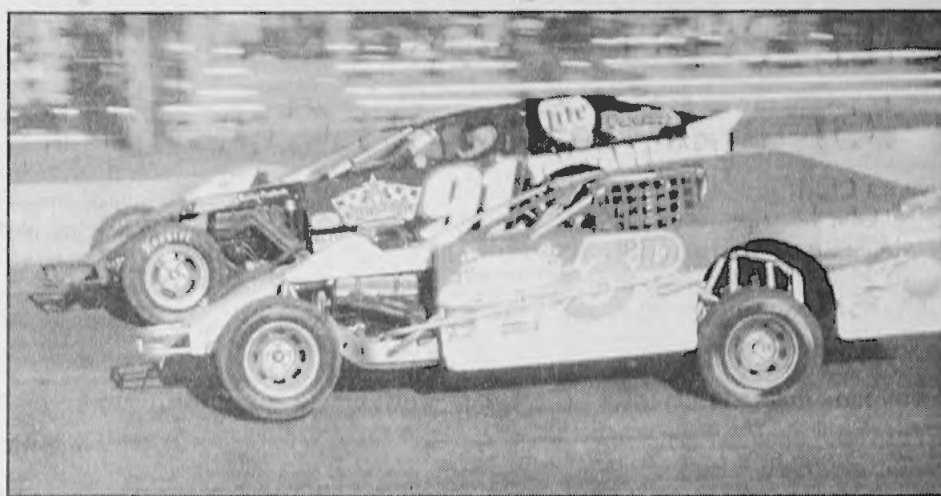


Brent Laursen (19), Paul Brust (middle) and Trent Follmer (31) race through one of Cedar Lake Speedway's corners three-wide during action Saturday night. (Neil Eric Miller photo)

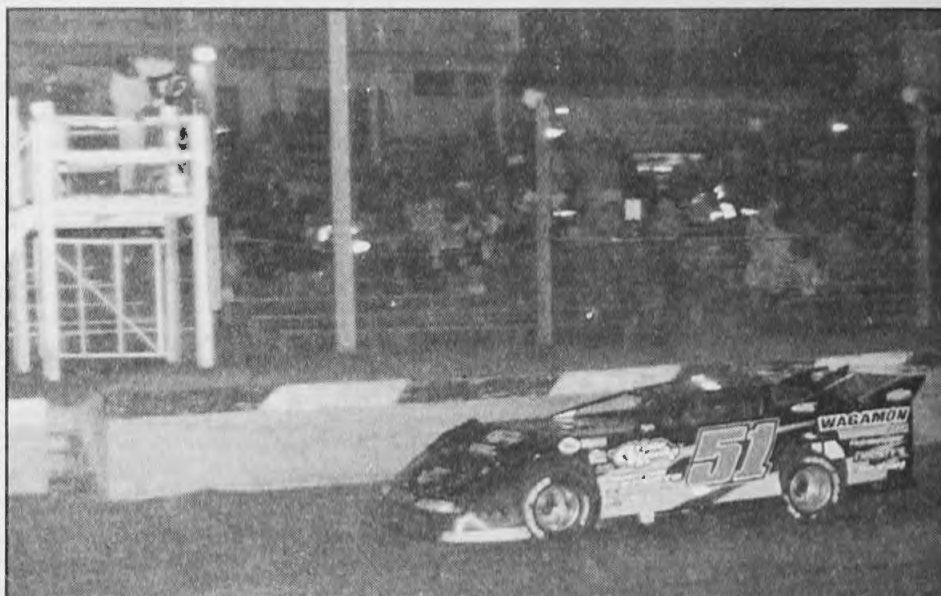
Chuck Swenson and Loren Langerud were the show in the sprint car A-main, after Jay Rickert went end-over-end and out of the ballpark on the first lap. Rickert was okay, and on the restart Langerud sprinted to the lead. Swenson soon powered around him and took off into a sizable lead, but as the leader worked through lapped traffic, his lead slowly disappeared. Swenson held the lead as the white flag waved, but as the lead duo entered turn 3, Langerud drove past Swenson for an amazing victory.

Tim Borgerson showed the way through the first 11 laps of the super stock feature and had built up a nice lead on second-place Cory Mahder when the caution came out on lap 11. The restart bunched up the field, but Borgerson again walked away. Mahder held off Mike Weber in the battle for second, and on the last lap Kelly Anderson drove around Weber to finish third.

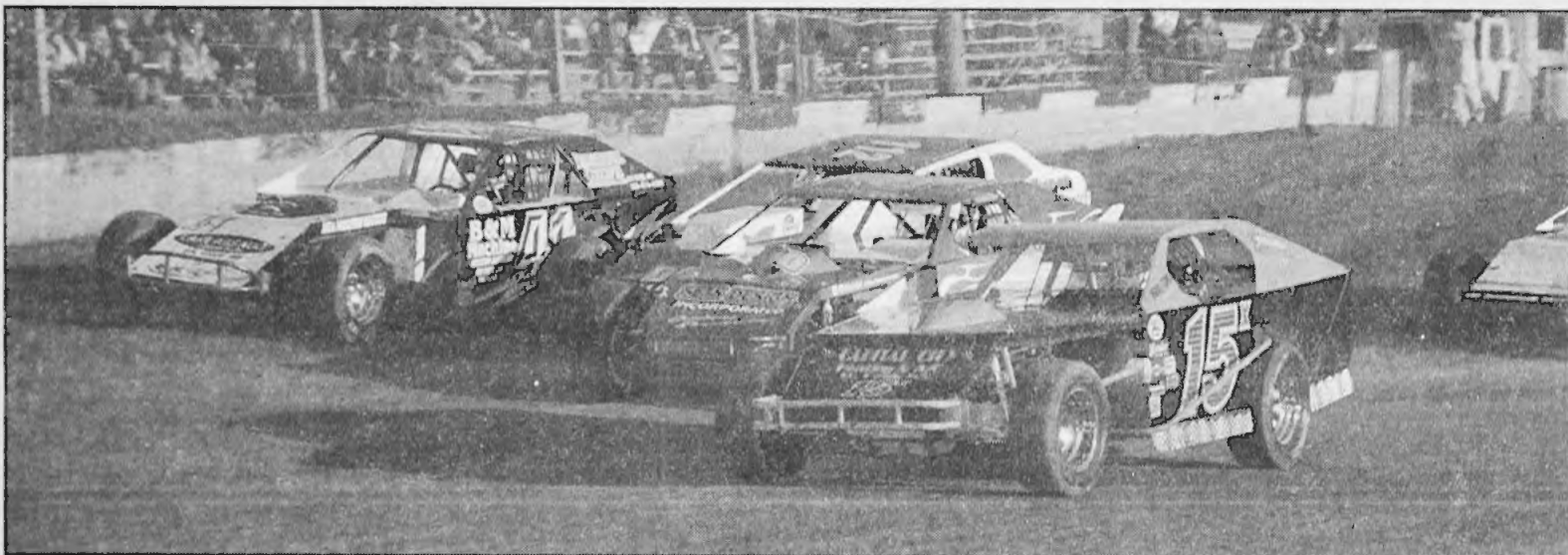
Steve Arpin showed his strength early and bolted out front of the Midwest modified feature field. A slew of cautions slowed the race



Craig Thatcher (91) moves by Dann Olson (3D) during WISSOTA modified action Saturday night at CLS. (Doug Zimmer photo)



Joel Cryderman won the super late model feature Saturday night at Cedar Lake Speedway. (Neil Eric Miller photo)



These WISSOTA Midwest modifieds drivers aren't afraid to race four-wide as they head into turn 3 at Cedar Lake Speedway Saturday night. (Neil Eric Miller photo)

several times, but after each restart Arpin showed the way. Jason Schill came on strong from his tenth-place start to get to second, but he couldn't get close to Arpin.

RESULTS

WISSOTA SPRINTS

Heat Winners: Scott Winters, Loren Langerud, Chuck Swenson.

Feature: Langerud, Swenson, Dustin Lidquist, Wade Nygaard, Winters, Johnny Parsons, Shane Spurlock, Bill Balog, Mark Toews, Bill Boles.

WISSOTA MIDWEST MODIFIEDS

Heat Winners: Jason Schill, Shawn Phillips, Steve Arpin.

Feature: Arpin, Schill, Troy Jordan, Dane Durbin, Tim Siercks, Phillips, Trent Brutger, Billy Witherspoon, Nick Lavato, Erik Peterson.

WISSOTA SUPER STOCKS

Heat Winners: Tim Borgerson, Kelly Anderson, Ryan Aho, Tony Gates.

Feature: Borgerson, Cory Mahder, Anderson, Mike Weber, Aho, Cory Davis, Dan Gullikson, Dan Carlson, Mike Loomis, Dale Gangl.

WISSOTA MODIFIEDS

Heat Winners: Dann Olson, Tyler Keyser, Steve Arpin.

Feature: Craig Thatcher, Paul Harelstad, Jason Miller, Olson, Joey Jensen, Jed Moore, Jamie Lemke, Dave Friendt, Brandon Jensen, Don Copp.

SUPER LATE MODELS

Heat Winners: Joel Cryderman, Justin Fegers, Eric Breeschoten.

Feature: Cryderman, Mike Nutzmänn, Brent Larson, Pat Doar, Trent Follmer, Ashley Anderson, Darrell Nelson, John Kaanta, Steve Laursen, Breeschoten.

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Miserable Weather Forces Kankakee to Call

KANKAKEE, IL, April 22 -- Rains - and even a little hail - helped to wash out the Friday night racing program at the Kankakee Valley Motor Speedway.

Track officials now look forward to their special show set for May 6. "We'll have a \$1,300 check waiting for the winner of the open-wheel modified feature, and we're going to see how much better the track surface is now that we've purchased an 8,000-gallon tanker for watering the track," said Brian Osterhoff, speaking for the track's new management team.

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Johnson Earns First Win, Vrba Goes 3-for-3 at Benton Co.

by Ryan Clark

VINTON, IA, April 24 -- For the second consecutive week, Sean Johnson found himself on the front row of the stock car feature at Benton County Speedway. For the first time in his career, however, the young driver piloted his way to victory lane Sunday.

Johnson paced the 18-car field at the start of the feature and never relinquished the top spot. He was pressured by Tony Schimmels throughout the event but never faltered as he led all 15 laps. Schimmels and Doug Otto finished second and third.

John Vrba started outside of the second row in the 15-lap pro stock feature, made his way into the lead after just one lap and pulled away to an impressive win, ahead Robbie Schmucker and Scott Welsh. The victory was Vrba's third in as many weeks at the Speedway.

Don Erger led throughout the first half of the 20-lap modified feature, pacing the 22-car field until defending track champion Vern Jackson reeled him in on lap 14. Jackson then made the pass for the lead just one lap later on his way to his first win of the season. Erger and J.D. Auringer completed the top three.

Chris Luloff captured the lead just past the midway point of the hobby stock main event and led the remainder of the 15-lap race to score his second win of the season. Steve Meyer charged from ninth to take runner-up honors, while early race leader Rod Grother finished third.

A handful of cautions through the first six laps marred the 15-lap sportmod feature, but when the dust settled Danny Dvorak coasted to his first victory of the season, ahead of Joe Docekal and Bob Ebaugh.

The team of Jason Doyle and Mike McDonald led wire-to-wire to pick up their first cruiser feature win of the season. Ryan Buhr and Shawn Ritter finished second.

RESULTS

IMCA MODIFIEDS

Heat 1: Troy Cordes, Raymond; Shawn Fisher, Vinton; Wayne Struchen, Marion.

Heat 2: Tim Murty, Tama; Ed Thomas, Waterloo; Todd Jensen, Waterloo.

Heat 3: Joey Schaefer, Waterloo; Dennis Betzer, Central City; J.D. Auringer, Evansdale.

Feature: Vern Jackson, Waterloo; Don Erger, Brandon; Auringer; Betzer; Cordes; Thomas; Patrick Flannagan, Cedar Rapids; Adam Johnson, Independence; Jensen; Bart Miller, Clarence.

IMCA STOCK CARS

Heat 1: Sean Johnson, Independence; Eric Weber, Jesup; Scooter Dulin, Cedar Rapids.

Heat 2: Tony Schimmels, Readlyn; Doug Otto, Cedar Falls; Dan Trimble, Fairbank.

Feature: Johnson; Schimmels; Otto; Justin Temeyer, Independence; Weber; Norman Chesmore, Quasqueton; Trimble; Cliff Gray, Waterloo; Damon Murty, Chelsea; Curtis Roster, Vinton.

IMCA HOBBY STOCKS

Heat 1: Shane Ebaugh, Cedar Falls; Steve Meyer, Grundy Center; Bobby Kesl, Vining.

Heat 2: Dustin Elliott, Marshalltown; Brian Happel, Cedar Rapids; Rod Grother, Cedar Rapids.

Heat 3: Curt Hilmer, Dysart; Vince Buchholz, Cedar Falls; Steve Kesl, Elberon.

B Feature: Robert Hilmer, Dysart; Michael Smith, Marshalltown; Adam Gehl, Dysart.

A Feature: Chris Luloff, Independence; Meyer; Grother; Ryan Higdon, Vinton; B. Kesl; Smith; Joe Sprague, Independence; Paul Shepherd, Marengo; R. Hilmer; Brad Forbes, Waterloo.

IMCA SPORTMODS

Heat: Dawn Krall, Waterloo; Joe Docekal, Dysart; Bob Ebaugh, Raymond.

Feature: Danny Dvorak, Vinton; Docekal; Ebaugh; Tony Olson, Cedar Rapids; Frankie Dulin, Vinton; Dave Butler, Cedar Rapids; Ryan Coleman, Urbana; Kyle Olson, Cedar Rapids; Mike Hiller, Dunkerton; Ron Tharp, Vinton.

PRO STOCKS

Heat: John Vrba, Shellsburg; Robbie Schmucker, Vinton; Doug Smith, Center Point.

Feature: Vrba; Schmucker; Scott Welsh, Cedar Rapids; Alan Wessels, Strawberry Point; Smith; Dan Higdon, Vinton; Jeff Lickiss, Oelwein; Dick Covington, Vinton; Kevin Curl, Cedar Rapids.

CRUISERS

Heat: Jason Doyle & Mike McDonald, Cedar Rapids; Ed O'Brien & Bill McVey, Cedar Rapids; Amron Van Dolah & Jason Blahnik, Cedar Rapids.

Feature: Doyle & McDonald; Ryan Buhr, Keystone, & Shawn Ritter, Newhall; Lee Becker & Leah Van Hamme, Belle Plaine; Rob Miller, Vinton, & George Lewis, Cedar Rapids; Tyler German, Shellsburg, & Mike Ollinger, Vinton; Curtis Janssen & Gene Petersen, Van Horne; Van Dolah & Blahnik; O'Brien & McVey; Russell Damme & Al Mitts, Waterloo

Farmer City Races Rained Out

FARMER CITY, IL, April 22 -- The race program scheduled for Friday at Farmer City Raceway was cancelled due to wet, rainy weather.

The track will attempt to continue its 2005 racing season next Friday, April 29.

STOCK CAR RACING SATURDAY-APRIL 30

Open 2 PM, Qualifying 4:30, Racing 7:00 SHARP

GOODYEAR Presents
SPRING SIZZLER 50 **GOOD YEAR**
50-Lap Late Model Feature

Plus Full Show With Late Models, Sportsman, Internationals, Hobby Stocks & Bandits



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Jefferson Speedway

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Track Phone: (920) 648-2705 1/4-Mile, Paved Oval

"Wisconsin's Action Track"

Myer, Teske Take First Wins of Season at Deer Creek Speedway

by Bill Nelson

SPRING VALLEY, MN, April 23 -- A field of 156 cars checked into the Deer Creek Speedway on a cool and blustery Saturday night.

Last week's street stock feature winner, Steve Eischens, started on the pole of this week's main and took the early lead, with Mark Zvorak and Cory Rosen in pursuit until Rosen slipped up and brushed the wall, dropping back to tenth. Jim Gullikson took second on lap 4, and with seven laps left Gullikson moved past Eischens and into the top spot. A caution period with five laps remaining tightened up the field, but Gullikson held the point on the restart, Danny Hanson moved just past Gullikson, but another caution flag negated his pass, and after that restart Gullikson held on for the win. Wayne Dean used the top side to take second.

The Midwest modifieds feature was a caution-plagued event which was ruled complete five laps short of its scheduled 15-lap length. Joe Wernecke took the early lead, but on lap 3 the first caution flew for a Jerry Young spin. Kenny Wytaske took over second one lap after the restart and just before another caution flag flew; that restart was negated by another spin, but then Dean Hoffman took the lead on the next attempt. The final caution of the event flew when four cars battling for position spun on the back stretch. Greg Pfeifer, Jr., used the restart to take over second from Wytaske, but Hoffman held on for his first feature win at the Speedway.

Jason Gabrielson led the super stock feature early, while Cole Queensland worked into second. With 17 laps remaining Queensland and Gabrielson ran side by side for the lead with Queensland trying to squeeze through on the bottom before a caution bunched up the field, and on the restart Queensland went to the outside on Gabrielson and took over

the lead. Kevin Hager then worked around Gabrielson for second, but with six laps remaining Dustin Nelson pulled alongside Hager for second. A caution flew with three laps remaining, and several restarts were needed to complete those last laps. Nelson slipped up the track on the final restart, and Queensland came home with the win, while Aaron Wilson quietly used the final restarts to come home second.

Many traveling modified drivers strengthened an already stellar field, as Neil Eckhart and Tommy Myer battled hard for the first lap until Mark Noble moved under them for the lead. But Noble slipped on the next lap, and Eckhart and Myer moved back by, with Myer taking the top spot. After a caution Noble pulled even with Myer again with seven to go, but when Kelly Shyrock moved alongside of Noble on the next lap Myer lengthened his lead again. A late restart caused a big shakeup in the running order from fifth on back, and Noble regained second as Myer held on for the win over the final four circuits.

Corey Whalen, Mike Gaines and Tate Bestor raced for the lead early in the classic dwarf car feature, but ninth-starting Brian Kiehne charged through the field and, with 12 laps remaining, took over the top spot. Drew Jech worked into second with six laps remaining but was unable to make up ground on Kiehne, who won by a full straightaway.

Ben Mattick held the point early in the late model headliner, followed closely by Duane Mahder. With three laps in Mahder worked under Mattick to take the top spot, before a spin bunched up the field. On the restart first-nighter Mark Teske powered by Mattick to take second, and Teske and Mahder battled for the lead. With three laps to go Teske finally moved around Mahder to take the lead and the win.

RESULTS

WISSOTA LATE MODELS

Feature: Mark Teske, Duane Mahder, Ben Mattick, Lance Matthees, Nick Herrick, Adam Hensel, Barry Underdahl, Brad Waits, Paul Novotny, Jerry Bloom.

Heat 1: C. Mahder, D. Mahder, Mattick.

Heat 2: Teske, Novotny, Underdahl.

Heat 3: Waits, Jason Weis, N. Herrick.

USRA MODIFIEDS

Feature: Tommy Myer, Mark Noble, Kelly Shyrock, John Tesch, Mike Sorensen, Neil Eckhart, Mike Hejna, Jimmy Davis, Steve Wetzstein, Jay Ihrke.

B-Main: Bob Timm, Ihrke, Dain Schultz.

Heat 1: Tesch, Shyrock, Bobby Sorensen.

Heat 2: Brad McEwan, Lonnie Earney, Noble.

Heat 3: Eckhart, Wetzstein, Hank Rollinger.

Heat 4: M. Sorensen, Myer, Karl Fenske.

WISSOTA SUPER STOCKS

Feature: Cole Queensland, Aaron Wilson, Ferlin Miller, Dustin Nelson, Jason Gabrielson, Ted Marrs, Schatney Sanders, Justin Pogones, Dan Nissalke, Ryan Siegle.

B-Feature: Chris Klingler, Chad Halstrom, Chris Quast.

Heat 1: Nelson, Troy Brand, Miller.

Heat 2: Jake Redetzke, Wilson, Dave Haberman.

Heat 3: Sanders, Queensland, Marrs.

WISSOTA MIDWEST MODIFIEDS

Feature: Dean Hoffman, Greg Pfeifer, Jr., Kenny Wytaske, Tom Paulson, Jason Cummins, Joe Wernecke, Ryan Weber, Craig Bentzin, Ben Anderson, Dan Svej.

B-Feature: Derrick Bridley, Cummins, Bentzin.

Heat 1: Pfeifer, T. Paulson, Jim Struckman.

Heat 2: Jeff Brauer, Weber, Anderson.

Heat 3: Jerry Young, Wernecke, Sam Siskow.

Heat 4: Hoffman, Wytaske, Bob Bunne.

WISSOTA STREET STOCKS

Feature: Jim Gullikson, Wayne Dean, Danny Hanson, Steve Eischens, Chuck Nerland, Tyler Rubin, Cory Rosen, Mark Hovland, Shaun Wehlage, Tom McEldowney.

Heat 1: Mark Zvorak, Fred Prudoehl, Rosen.

Heat 2: Gullikson, Eischens, McEldowney.

Heat 3: Hanson, Hovland, Dean.

CLASSIC DWARF CARS

Feature: Brian Kiehne, Drew Jech, Tate Bestor, Mike Gaines, Corey Whalen, Roger Torgerson, Jeff Jech, Todd Kiehne, Gavin Wangen, Curtis Luhmann.

Heat 1: Bestor, Gaines, J. Jech.

Heat 2: B. Kiehne, Whalen, Torgerson.

Winchester's Vogler Classic Postponed

WINCHESTER, IN, April 23 -- Winchester Speedway and USAC officials announced that this past weekend's "Rich Vogler Classic" USAC National Sprint Car Series and CRA Super Series events at the Winchester Speedway was postponed due to inclement weather.

A forecast of temperatures in the 40s with 20- to 40-mph winds and a threat of rain and possible snow showers were the reasons behind the postponement.

The Vogler Classic has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 16. The next USAC race at Winchester is the "Kenny Irwin Memorial" USAC Sprint Car Series race on June 12.

The CRA Super Series and street stock events scheduled for this past weekend have also been rescheduled, for Sunday, May 22, to be run with the "King of the Wings" sprint car classic as part of Winchester Speedway's Grand Re-Opening Weekend. The American Modifieds, originally scheduled for Sunday, May 22, have been moved to Sunday, October 16, with the Vogler Classic.

Dubuque Action Canceled

DUBUQUE, IA, April 24 -- The weekly racing program scheduled for Sunday, April 24, at Dubuque Speedway was cancelled due to cold weather.

Racing is set to resume at Dubuque on Sunday, May 1, with hot laps scheduled for 6 pm.

50th ANNIVERSARY SEASON at COLUMBUS 151

Saturday, April 30 Noon-6 PM
Practice & Inspection Day Test & Tune



SUNDAY, MAY 1

50th Anniversary

Season Opener

50 Lap Late Model Feature

Street Stock, Hobby Stock, Back Up, 4-Cylinder Bandits
Kids' Treasure Hunt @ Intermission Time Trials: Noon, Race: 2
Regular Weekly Admission Prices



Friday, May 6

FRIDAY NIGHT

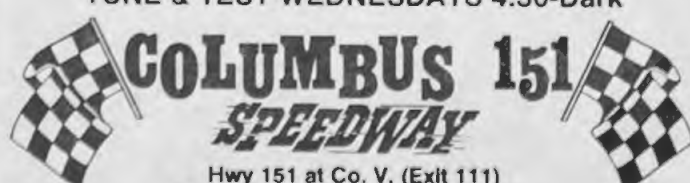
RACING BEGINS

FRIDAY RACING THRU SEPT. 9

Time Trials: 6:30 PM Racing: 8



TUNE & TEST WEDNESDAYS 4:30-Dark



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Wayne County Opener Falls to Inclement Weather

by Ryan Pearson

ORRVILLE, OH, April 22 -- The 40th anniversary season kick-off for the Wayne County Speedway will have to wait a week, as torrential downpours on Friday and a forecast for frigid weather and snow for Saturday's season opener forced track officials to postpone the program scheduled for Saturday, April 23.

Next Saturday night, April 30, Wayne County Speedway will attempt to launch its season, featuring a full racing program of super late models, modifieds, pure stocks and mini-stocks, with the gates opening at 3 pm, hot laps and qualifying at 5:30 and racing at 7 pm. WCS is located nine miles east of Wooster, or 15 miles west of Massillon, on US Route 30, then one mile north on Carr Road. For more, information contact the track at (330) 682-7435, the office at (419) 522-8761, or track general manager Tina Heil at (300) 465-9058.

Farley Program Falls to Rain, Cold

FARLEY, IA, April 22 -- The weekly race program scheduled for Friday, April 22, at the Farley Speedway was cancelled due to rain.

Racing will resume at Farley on Friday, April 29, with hot laps scheduled for 7 pm.

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Saturday-April 30th
Manitowoc County Expo

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BRAT FRY - CAR SHOW

Cars on Display: 10 am-6 pm Brat Fry: 10 am

DANCE

3:30-8 "Tune Time" DJ 8-12 Midnight "76 Juliet"
(No Cover Charge)

EWSC Season Opener
Saturday-May 7th

USGP Schedule, Support Series Unveiled

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, April 19 -- United States Grand Prix officials have announced that the Formula One race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sunday, June 19, will start at 1 pm (local time). It will be the highlight of three days of on-track action that includes an event-record three support series.

The 73-lap USGP will complete a full day of F1 action on that Sunday. The second F1 qualifying session takes place from 9-10 am Sunday, as the starting grid is determined by aggregate times from the single-lap qualifying sessions Saturday and Sunday.

On-track action starts Friday, June 17, with activity for F1 and the event's three support series - the IRL Menards Infiniti Pro Series, Porsche Michelin Supercup and Formula BMW USA. This is the first

year for the Pro Series at the USGP, while the Supercup and Formula USA return for the sixth and second consecutive years, respectively.

Two one-hour F1 practice sessions, at 11 am and 2 pm, are the highlights of the Friday schedule. The Pro Series will make its IMS competitive debut with a practice at 9:15 am and qualifying at 12:30 pm.

Supercup sports cars and Formula USA open-wheel winged formula cars also will be on track Friday.

The first F1 qualifying session is at 1 pm Saturday. F1 drivers and teams will practice on the 2.605-mile road circuit from 9-9:45 am and 10:15-11 am before qualifying.

Racing in all three support series will start Saturday, with the inaugural Liberty

Challenge for the Pro Series starting at 4:45 pm. The first of two Formula USA races is scheduled for 2:30 pm, with the first of two Supercup races at 3:30.

Two support series races will complement the USGP on Sunday. A Supercup race starts at 10:30 am, right after F1 qualifying, and the event weekend will finish with a Formula USA race at 3:15 pm.

The USGP fan pit walkabout will be from 8 am-noon on Thursday, June 16, to kick off the weekend.

Tickets for the 2005 United States Grand Prix can be purchased online at <www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com> or by calling the IMS ticket office at (317) 492-6700 or (800) 822-INDY outside the Indianapolis area.

USAC Roundup: Kruseman Wins Ventura 30-Lapper

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, April 24 -- Cory Kruseman of Ventura, CA, outdueled Brad Kuhn to win Saturday night's 30-lap USAC Western Midget Series race at Ventura (CA) Raceway.

Kruseman passed Kuhn on lap 3 but relinquished the lead back to Kuhn on lap 14. Four laps later Kruseman regained the lead for good, and he led to the checkered flag to beat Kuhn, Garrett Hansen, defending Series champ Johnny Rodriguez and CRA sprint regular Damion Gardner, making a rare midget appearance.

Robby Flock leads the Series standings after posting the fastest qualifying time and finishing tenth Saturday night.

Focus winners: Dustin Morgan of Collinsville, OK, is undefeated in the new USAC Oklahoma Ford Focus Midget Series and has a 15-point lead in the new standings

after winning Saturday night's 25-lapper at Tulsa (OK) Speedway. He led the final 20 laps after taking the lead from Jasiel Randolph on lap 6. Leon Bacon finished second ahead of Evan Sewell, Randolph and Matt Sherrell.

Alex Harris of Simi Valley, CA led all but the first two laps of Saturday's USAC California Ford Focus Midget Dirt Series feature at Ventura (CA) Raceway. Harris caught Rob Kershaw on lap 3 and was trailed at the finish by Robbie Whitchurch, Todd Carroll, Bill Camarillo and Chris Veach.

California Focus Dirt points leader Bobby Michnowicz finished a disappointing 14th at the fifth-mile dirt oval.

Nick Wean of Milford, NJ, is the new leader in the USAC Carolina/Virginia Ford Focus Series after finishing second to A.J. Davis in Saturday night's 25-lapper at the South

Boston (VA) Speedway. Davis, of Spartanburg, SC, led the first seven laps and the last three after he trailed defending Series champion Chase Scott for laps 8-22 before a red flag for oil halted the contest. On the restart, a fuel leak forced Scott's car off the track, allowing Davis to take command.

Trailing Davis and Wean were Michael Sboro, Gary Winters and Stephanie Stevens.

RESULTS
from Ventura (CA) Raceway, 4/23:
USAC CALIFORNIA FORD FOCUS DIRT MIDGETS

Heat 1: Rob Kershaw, Alex Harris, Jake Vail.

Heat 2: Chris Veach, Keith Janca, Bobby Michnowicz.

Heat 3: Robbie Whitchurch, Bill Camarillo, Audra Sassell.

Feature: Harris, Whitchurch, Todd Carroll, Camarillo, Veach, Cal Smith, Sassell, Jet Davison, J.R. Williams, Kershaw.

USAC WESTERN MIDGETS
Qualifying: Robby Flock, 12.275 secs.

Heat 1: Damion Gardner, Josh Lakatos, Tyler Brown.

Heat 2: Chris Rahe, Wally Pankratz, Brad Kuhn.

Heat 3: Cory Kruseman, Ryan Kaplan, Johnny Rodriguez.

Heat 4: Eric Wilkins, Jimmy Christian, Scott Pierovich.

Semi-Feature: Shannon McQueen, Garrett Hansen, Steve Paden.

Feature: Kruseman, Kuhn, Hansen, Rodriguez, Gardner, Lakatos, McQueen, Pierovich, Wilkins, Flock.

from South Boston (VA) Speedway, 4/23:
USAC CAROLINA/VIRGINIA FORD FOCUS MIDGETS

Feature: A.J. Davis, Nick Wean, Michael Sboro, Gary Winters, Stephanie Stevens, Mike Ward, Destiney Hays, Chris Meadows, Nick Wagner, Brandon Wagner.

from Tulsa (OK) Speedway, 4/23:
USAC OKLAHOMA FORD FOCUS MIDGETS

Heat 1: Dustin Morgan, Jasiel Randolph, Evan Sewell.

Heat 2: Leon Bacon, Kevin Studley, Chett Gehrke.

Feature: Morgan, Bacon, Sewell, Randolph, Matt Sherrell, Matt Johnson, Studley, Ethan Tessenhardt, Gehrke, Ryan Cole.

Pittman Cruises to WoO Victory in Wichita

WICHITA, KS, April 23 -- In the Wichita Twister Showdown Saturday night at 81 Speedway, Daryn Pittman gave a dominating performance as the fastest qualifier and the dash winner, then drove away from Steve Kinser on a restart in the main event with six laps to go for his first World of Outlaws Sprint Series A-main feature victory since August 3, 2003.

The victory also marked the first win on the Series circuit for car owner and Australia native Reeve Kruck.

Following Pittman and Kinser to the checkered flag were Brooke Tatnell, Jason Meyers and Craig Kinser.

On each of the five restarts, including two before a lap could be completed, Pittman quickly built advantages. But a late-race caution threatened to change the almost-certain



Sammy Swindell (5) races hard with Paul McMahn (11h) in the World of Outlaws feature at 81 Speedway in Wichita on Saturday. (Sean Mizell photo)

outcome. With six laps left, a caution followed by a red flag waved when second-place running Joey Saldana ran out of fuel.

To that point Pittman had been nearly untouchable in the high groove on the 3/8th-mile oval, but the caution turned the feature into a six-lap sprint. Kinser had moved into second, but, unlike Friday at Muskogee, OK, when Kinser capitalized on a late-race restart to win, he couldn't make up ground on the bottom of the track. So Pittman pinched the field to the bottom of the track, then surged to the high side, keeping Kinser about six car-lengths behind.

Pittman's last main event victory came in Beaver Dam,

WI, but in 2003 he earned a preliminary feature win at Texas Motor Speedway.

Pittman paced the 31-car field with a lap of 13.485 seconds.

RESULTS
WORLD OF OUTLAWS SPRINTS
Qualifying: Daryn Pittman, 13.485 secs.

Heat 1: Tim Kaeding, Donny Schatz, Danny Lasoski.

Heat 2: Jason Sides, Craig Dollansky, Jason Solwold.

Heat 3: Brandon Wimmer, Tim Shaffer, Brooke Tatnell.

Dash 1: Pittman, Shane Stewart, Craig Kinser.

Dash 2: Steve Kinser, Joey Saldana, Tatnell.

B-Main: Terry McCarl, Kevin Swindell, Jesse Hockett.

A-Main: Pittman, S. Kinser, Tatnell, Jason Meyers, K. Kinser, Lasoski, Paul McMahan, Solwold, Kaeding, Schatz.

Alonso Wins, Schumacher Stars at San Marino

IMOLA, Italy, April 24 -- Fernando Alonso drove Renault to their third consecutive Formula One World Championship victory Sunday, but a revitalized Michael Schumacher took the race down to the wire in a thrilling San Marino Grand Prix.

Alonso had to drive the race of his life to fend off intense pressure from the defending world champion, as for the final 12 laps Schumacher's scarlet Ferrari was never more than feet behind Alonso, but even when Schumacher nosed alongside in Piratella and again at the Variante Alta, Alonso held fast. By the checkered flag they were separated by only 0.215 seconds.

The race began with Kimi Raikkonen sprinting away from Alonso, while for the first 20 laps Schumacher was tenth, trapped behind his brother Ralf. After the first round of pit stops Alonso led Jenson Button, as Raikkonen's day ended on lap nine with a failed driveshaft constant velocity joint. But Schumacher had jumped ahead of seven rivals into third, and he drew from 21.8 seconds behind Button to less than a second by lap 46, and that was when he slammed by the Brit as they came up behind slower traffic.

Alonso, who had stopped on lap 42, regained his lead after Button refueled on lap 48 and Schumacher on lap 49. Schumacher was in arrears to Alonso by 1.3 seconds, and from lap 41 on the Ferrari was never more than a half-second behind the Renault.

Button continued on to finish third for his first podium finish of the year, and Alexander Wurz claimed fourth place ahead of Takuma Sato.

Felipe Massa was fast but always seemed to be caught in traffic; he lost time after taking off his nose piece on David Coulthard's rear wheel on lap 16 and then refueling while a replacement was fitted. An unhappy Coulthard finished 13th.

Christijan Albers and Patrick Friesacher failed to finish after suffering gearbox-related problems, Giancarlo Fisichella crashed out of 11th place on lap 6, and Rubens Barrichello retired from eighth place on lap 18 with electronic gremlins, just after his first pit stop.

RESULTS

1-10: Fernando Alonso, Michael Schumacher, Jenson Button, Alexander Wurz, Takuma Sato, Jacques Villeneuve, Jarno Trulli, Ralf Schumacher, Nick Heidfeld, Mark Webber.

11-20: Vitantonio Liuzzi, Felipe Massa, David Coulthard, Narain Karthikeyan, Tiago Monteiro, Christijan Albers, Rubens Barrichello, Kimi Raikkonen, Patrick Friesacher, Giancarlo Fisichella.



Steve Kinser (11) battles with Joey Saldana (2) at Wichita, KS. Kinser won WoO Friday's feature at Outlaw Motor Speedway in Muskogee, OK. (Sean Mizell photo)

Kinser Captures WoO Debut at Outlaw

MUSKOGEE, OK, April 22 -- Steve Kinser picked up his fifth victory of the season in the World of Outlaws Sprint Series debut at Outlaw Motor Speedway Friday night.

Kinser slid into second late in the run, then took advantage of a caution with three laps to go to catch and pass Jason Meyers to win for the third consecutive race and the 518th time in his career.

Early on Kinser found a fast groove on the low side of the track that helped him methodically work toward the front in the 30-lap feature, but Meyers had been slowly pulling away through traffic. Then Peter Murphy and Tim Kaeding tangled, with Murphy flipping, to bring out a red flag, and on the restart the lapped cars of Jesse Hockett and Jason Martin, who were between Meyers and Kinser, got together and brought out another red flag.

With nobody between Meyers and Kinser on the second restart, Meyers shot out to the top side of the track and Kinser dove to the bottom. They came out of turn 4 of the 3/8th-mile oval side by side before Kinser edged in front at the flagstand with two laps left. Able to keep his quick pace on the bottom, Kinser held off Meyers to win by 0.74 seconds.

Jason Solwold earned his second top-five of the season with a third-place run, followed by Craig Dollansky, who earned his ninth top-five, and Sammy Swindell, who led a race-high 14 laps.

Early on, Swindell, Meyers and Terry McCarl raced in a lead pack of cars, going three-wide at one point. Meyers finally moved in front on lap 15 by going around the outside of Swindell, while Kinser was already working the low groove, eventually getting past Swindell and moving into second on lap 22 to set up the showdown during the closing laps.

RESULTS

WORLD OF OUTLAWS SPRINTS
Qualifying: Craig Kinser, 15.186 secs (NTR).

Heat 1: Tim Shaffer, Tim Kaeding, Jason Meyers.

Heat 2: Kevin Swindell, Joey Saldana, Shane Stewart.

Heat 3: Stevie Smith, Brian Paulus, Jason Solwold.

Dash 1: Meyers, Terry McCarl, Paulus.

Dash 2: Sammy Swindell, Stewart, Craig Dollansky.

B-Main: Donny Schatz, Danny Lasoski, Daryn Pittman.

A-Main: Steve Kinser, Meyers, Solwold, Dollansky, S. Swindell, Saldana, Paulus, McCarl, Brooke Tatnell, K. Kinser.

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DIRT Establishes Appeals Board

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO, April 21 -- DIRT MotorSports has announced the establishment of an appellate board to rule on appeals by DMS-licensed drivers and owners who feel they were unjustifiably penalized in DIRT MotorSports events. The panel was selected through the recommendations of drivers, promoters, team owners, crew members and parts manufacturers to represent a fair cross-section of the dirt track racing industry.

In order to appeal, a team must submit the requisite paperwork to DIRT's operations office in Colorado Springs within 30 days of the disputed incident or ruling, or within 15 days during the final 30 days of the season. A copy of the Appeal Regulations can be found in each series' rule book. Furthermore, the appeal must be on a subject matter not precluded by the rules, and the appellant must prove he or she was actually harmed by a decision of a DMS official. In other words, a driver who has not been penalized can't demand that someone else should be penalized.

The board is headed by chairman Andy Fusco, a well-respected attorney and racing enthusiast in upstate New York and has served as chair of a DMS regional appellate board since 1981.

DIRT has established three boards - one each for the World of Outlaws Sprint Series and the World of Outlaws Late Model Series, and one for DIRT's various Modified Series.

The Sprint Series board includes Fusco as chairman, Fred Brownfield representing promoters, Craig Dollansky representing drivers, Tom Wimmer representing owners, Sonny Kratzer representing crew and parts manufacturers, and Dean Miracle as the DIRT MotorSports member.

The Late Model Series board includes Fusco as chairman, Tom Helfrich (promoter), Dale McDowell (driver), Raye Vest (owner), Tommy Grecco (crew/parts) and Rick Eshelman (DMS).

The Modified Series board includes Fusco as chairman, Paul Kirkland (promoter), Tim Fuller (driver), Randy Ross (owner), Pete Chuckta (crew/parts) and Gary Spaid (DMS).

USCS Swainsboro Run Rained Out, Reset

SWAINSBORO, GA, April 22 -- Heavy rains washed out the United Sprint Car Series Outlaw Thunder Series event at Swainsboro Raceway on Friday night.

The event that was to also open the USCS Southern Thunder Tour has been rescheduled for Friday night, July 22.

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Blount Nudges Past Kimmel for ARCA Win at Salem

by Don Radebaugh

SALEM, IN, April 24 -- With less than two laps remaining, Chad Blount put enough fender to fellow Hoosier Frank Kimmel's bumper to win the Kentuckiana Ford Dealers 200 Sunday afternoon at Salem Speedway. Blount's contact with Kimmel also may have caused the six-time champion to smack the turn 3 wall as the leaders prepared for the final lap.

Blount went on to win his career-first ARCA Re/Max Series short-track race and sixth overall, while Kimmel, with a badly torn-up car, limped home in seventh.

"It's definitely not the way we wanted to win," said Blount. "I have the utmost respect for Frank (Kimmel). We got into him some in (turn) 3, then tried to give him room to straighten out. We were both racing hard; it happens."

"It was pretty obvious: we flat got wrecked," said Kimmel. "We never touched him all day. We raced him clean, like we expect to be raced. He had fresher tires and was a little faster, so we just held our line 'til he turned us."

In addition to the win, Blount also edged Kimmel for lap leader honors, with 92 to Kimmel's 91.

Blount, with 30 laps remaining, was leading with Kimmel, on fresher tires, fast approaching. Then the caution



Frank Kimmel spins with two laps remaining in the Kentuckiana Ford Dealers 200 ARCA Re/Max Series event at Salem Speedway, after he and Chad Blount come together in turns 3 and 4.

flag came out, under which Blount ducked onto pit road for four fresh tires while Kimmel stayed out. Blount re-entered the race ninth while Kimmel set sail out front.

Blount weaved high and low on the old high-banked half-mile and in eight laps worked his way into second with less than ten laps remaining. Kimmel's lead seemed insurmountable - until the caution flag came out for the 12th and final time, bunching up the field for a five-lap shootout.

Blount worked inches away from



Chad McCumbee takes the ARCA field into turn 1 from the pole to start the Kentuckiana Ford Dealers 200.



David Ragan spins coming off of turn 4 at Salem. (ARCA photos)

Kimmel's rear bumper, and with under two laps to go Blount made contact with Kimmel. Kimmel chased the car up the track and eventually made heavy contact with the wall.

T.J. Bell, running third at the time, avoided the situation altogether and finished second, just over two seconds behind the winner. David Ragan survived a mid-race spin to earn third and was the highest-finishing rookie, while 17-year-old Justin South finished fourth and Todd Bowsher steered a beat and battered car to the finish in fifth.

The next event for the Series is at Kentucky Speedway on Saturday, May

14, at 3 pm ET. The ARCA Truck Series will join the ticket.

RESULTS

1-10: Chad Blount, T.J. Bell, David Ragan, Justin South, Todd Bowsher, Joey Miller, Frank Kimmel, Brett Hudson, Ken Weaver, Christi Passmore.

11-20: Ron Hornaday III, Michael Simko, Mark Gibson, Johnny Leonard, Andy Belmont, Darrell Basham, Bill Eversole, Jason Jarrett, Norm Benning, Chad McCumbee.

21-30: Jeff Caudell, Ken Schrader, Randy VanZant, Joe Cooksey, Billy Leslie, Mike Harmon, G.R. Smith, Josh Clemons, Robbin Slaughter, Tim Mitchell.

31-34: Josh Allison, Ricky Gonzalez, Brandon Knupp, Justin Allgaier.

Fast Qualifier: McCumbee, 17.375 secs (113.957 mph).

Gray Wins First USCS Race of Season at Oglethorpe

SAVANNAH, GA, April 23 -- Terry Gray of Bartlett, TN, picked up his first United Sprint Car Series win of the season Saturday night in the 30-lap feature race at Oglethorpe Speedway Park. The defending and four-time USCS national champion passed Paul Sides on lap 6 and led the rest of the way, holding off Kenny Adams.

Adams crashed his primary car in the dash and had to roll

out a back-up for his heat race.

Sides took the lead at the drop of the green flag, followed by Gray, while Greg Leonard and Erin Crocker passed Bobby Courtwright for third and fourth, respectively, on lap 2, and Tom Winegardner, Jr., moved up to the top five on lap 3. Gray passed Sides for the lead on lap 6 in heavy lapped traffic, and Adams moved into the top five on lap 10. Crocker passed Leonard for third on lap 11 and tried a high-side move on lap 14 to pass Sides for second, but she couldn't make the car stick and spun to bring out the caution flag.

The caution light was back on for a lap 17 spin by Bryn Gohn; Bruce Cline also got collected. On the restart

Leonard spun out of third.

Lap 18 saw a red flag when Wayne Reutimann, Jr.'s car ended up on its side. When the field went back to green Gray led Sides, while Steve Osborne, who restarted sixth, passed Winegardner for fifth on lap 21. On the last lap Adams passed Sides for second, but he couldn't catch Gray, while Osborne passed Johnny Bridges for fourth.

RESULTS

USCS SPRINTS

Feature: Terry Gray, Kenny

Adams, Paul Sides, Steve Osborne,

Johnny Bridges, Tom Winegardner,

Jr., Erin Crocker, Greg Leonard,

Michael Miller, Brian Maddox.

Dash 1: Sides; Osborne; Gray.

Dash 2: Bobby Courtwright; R.J.

Johnson; Chad Allum.

Heat 1: Gray; Miller, Courtwright.

Heat 2: Leonard; Bryn Gohn;

Adams.

Heat 3: Winegardner; Sides;

Crocker.



Bobby Courtwright of Evans, GA, took his first sprint car win in Saturday's USCS trophy dash at Oglethorpe Speedway Park in Savannah, GA. (Larry Sams photos)



Terry Gray of Bartlett, TN, took his first United Sprint Car Series feature win of 2005 at Oglethorpe Speedway Park in Savannah, GA on Saturday night.

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Busch Holds off Waltrip for Phoenix Cup Win

from NASCAR.com
 AVONDALE, AZ, April 23 -- Kurt Busch held off a determined Michael Waltrip in the NASCAR Nextel Cup race at Phoenix International Raceway Saturday night for his first series win of the season.

The defending NASCAR Nextel Cup champion led 219 of 312 laps on the mile oval, emphatically putting behind him a streak of bad luck that included crashes at four consecutive events, including an IROC race a week ago at Texas Motor Speedway.

Greg Biffle was the only competitor able to challenge his Roush Racing teammate during the first half of the Subway Fresh 500, the first Cup race run under the lights at PIR. But a caution period for debris on the track was extended by a brief power outage that took out the track's caution lights and forced NASCAR to stop the race for nearly seven minutes. On the ensuing restart on lap 146 Biffle got by Busch, but it took only two laps for the eventual winner to slip back by on the inside and regain the top spot.

Biffle then collided with the car driven by Mike Bliss on pit road during the next caution period and wound up with extensive damage to the front of his car, including a hole in his radiator. The team tried to repair the damage but eventually gave up, and Biffle was credited with finishing 41st.

Busch slipped back into the pack for a while during a flurry of caution flags and pits stops, but he charged from ninth on a restart on lap 211 to regain the lead, passing Jeff Gordon for the top spot on lap 227. Then eight drivers remained on track when Busch and several other leaders pitted during a caution - one of

nine in the race - on lap 240. Busch restarted ninth but slashed through heavy traffic, moving steadily forward until finally driving past Michael Waltrip to take the lead for good on lap 269.

Waltrip tried hard to chase him down and nearly got by on lap 299 before wiggling hard and then scraping the wall. He bounced off the wall twice more as he struggled to keep up with Busch. Busch used lapped traffic to beat Waltrip to the finish line by 2.315 seconds - about ten car-lengths - for his 12th career victory. Jeff Burton was third, followed by Dale Earnhardt, Jr., and Brian Vickers.

It was the fourth victory in eight races this season for Jack Roush's teams, with Biffle winning twice and Carl Edwards getting his first Cup victory. Busch jumped from fourth to second in the standings, trailing series leader Jimmie Johnson, who finished 15th, by 173 points. Biffle slipped to third, 208 behind.

The start of the race was delayed about 30 minutes by a late afternoon rain shower, but there were no further weather problems.



Darren Stewart drove to victory lane in Friday night's 25-lap American Sprint Car Series National Tour preliminary feature at Memphis Motorsports Park. (Lonnie Wheatley photo)

Stewart Sails in ASCS MMP Prelim

MEMPHIS, TN, April 22 -- Darren Stewart dashed past Dale Howard on the second round and was never headed en route to topping Friday night's 25-lap American Sprint Car Series National Tour preliminary feature at Memphis Motorsports Park.

Stewart went unchallenged in the non-stop affair for his eighth career ASCS National Tour triumph but first since July 13 of last year, with Howard holding second the rest of the way. Mike Ward fought off Tim Crawley's advances for the show position.

Howard jumped into the lead at the drop of the green, with fourth-starter Stewart and sixth-starter Ward racing to second and third on the opening round. But Howard dropped low and opened the door for Stewart, who drove through the middle in turns 3 and 4 on the second round to take the lead.

Despite lapped traffic, Stewart raced to the checkered flag unabated. Crawley turned up the heat on Ward for third at the race's midpoint, but Ward was up to the task.

RESULTS
ASCs SPRINTS
 Heat 1: Steven Tiner, Jake Martens, Henry Gustavus.
 Heat 2: Tim Crawley, Sam Hafertepe, Jr., Eddie Gallagher.
 Heat 3: Dale Howard, Jan Howard, Travis Rilal.
 Heat 4: Darren Stewart, Ricky Stenhouse, Jr., Mike Ward.
B Feature 1: Hunter Schuenerberg, Marshall Skinner, A.G. Rains.
B Feature 2: Robert Gant, Toby Brown, Ernie Ainsworth.
A Feature: Stewart, D. Howard, Ward, Crawley, Tiner, Rilal, J. Howard, Martens, Stenhouse, Travis Senter Jr.

National Speedway Directory

Completely updated for 2005. The most complete directory available with the listing of the 1086 oval tracks, 337 dragstrips and 91 road courses that operate in the United States and Canada. Data includes nights of operation, exact directions, phone numbers, addresses, the size and surface of each track, types of cars, sanctioning info, schedules, etc.

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Biffle Wins Wild BGN Race

from NASCAR.com
 AVONDALE, AZ, April 22 -- Greg Biffle survived an early spinout and grabbed another dominating victory Friday night, this time overpowering the field in the NASCAR Busch Series race at Phoenix International Raceway.

The former Busch Series champion and current Nextel Cup star won the Bashas' Supermarket 200 on the mile oval at Phoenix, leading 112 of the 200 laps. He overcame a car that was "a little too loose at the start of the race" and spun by himself, but he took control in the second half of the race.

It was Biffle's 17th Series victory, but his first since last September at California Speedway. He previously won in Phoenix in 2001.

The race was marred by crashes and spins that resulted in 14 caution periods for 67 laps and two red-flag stoppages, but Biffle pulled away to big leads on just about every restart. He led the final 71 laps, beating runner-up Elliott Sadler to the finish line by 2.074 seconds - about 20 car-lengths. Busch Series regular David Stremme was third, followed by five more Cup stars - Kevin Harvick, Tony Stewart, Joe Nemechek, Michael Waltrip and Carl Edwards.

With fellow Series rookie Reed Sorenson finishing 32nd

Friday, Edwards extended his points lead to 156.

RESULTS
 1-10: Greg Biffle, Elliott Sadler, David Stremme, Kevin Harvick, Tony Stewart, Joe Nemechek, Michael Waltrip, Carl Edwards, Martin Truex, Jr., J.J. Yeley.
 11-20: Denny Hamlin, Stanton Barrett, Clint Bowyer, David Green, Paul Menard, Kenny Wallace, Ashton Lewis, Jon Wood, Stacy Compton, Justin Labonte.
 21-30: Jason Keller, Mark Green, Jerry Robertson, Brent Sherman, Kertus Davis, Johnny Sauter, Steve Grissom, Kasey Kahne, Derricke Cope, A.J. Fike.
 31-40: Scott Gaylord, Reed Sorenson, Shane Hmiel, Geoffrey Bodine, Randy LaJoie, Jamie McMurray, Michel Jourdain, Jr., Eric McClure, Boston Reid, Scott Lagasse, Jr.
 41-43: Tim Fedewa, Tyler Walker, David Gilliland.



Gary Wright drove to victory lane in Saturday night's 30-lap American Sprint Car Series National Tour feature at Memphis Motorsports Park. (Lonnie Wheatley photo)

Wright Shows the Way at MMP

MEMPHIS, TN, April 23 -- Gary Wright found the winning combination in American Sprint Car Series National Tour competition for the first time in 2005 as he chased down pacesetter Darren Stewart on the 19th round, then checked out on the field en route to topping Saturday night's 30-lap feature at Memphis Motorsports Park. It was his 91st career ASCS National Tour feature victory.

Wright scorched the field in the first heat race, then started the feature fifth. After the first attempt to start the race was waved off for Garry Bell's contact with the turn 3 fence, Stewart outgunned Dale Howard to snare the early lead. The caution flew again with just one lap in the books when Lee Sowell came to a halt with mechanical problems.

Wright disposed of Mike Ward for fourth on the fifth circuit and then raced past Tim Crawley the next time around to advance to third.

After encountering lapped traffic on lap 6, Howard closed on Stewart and raced into the lead on lap 10. Howard looped his machine a half-lap later without stopping, but he retained second position when the caution flew for Ricky Stenhouse, Jr., who spun at the same time with steering arm problems.

Stewart stretched his lead to a straightaway on the ensuing restart, and Wright battled past Howard for second on lap 12. With Stewart

into lapped traffic at the midway point, Wright quickly closed to Stewart's rear bumper by lap 16. Stewart fended off the defending Series champion for several laps until Wright used the high line to race into the lead on lap 19.

Once in front, Wright sliced through lapped traffic with ease and had amassed a half-straightaway advantage when the race's final caution flew with three rounds to go for rookie Jake Martens' spin while running a strong fourth. With three lapped cars separating him from Stewart on the final restart, Wright charged to the checkered flag unchallenged. Stewart settled for second, with Howard third. Ward crossed the stripe fourth, and Crawley rounded out the top five.

RESULTS
ASCs SPRINTS
 Heat 1: Gary Wright, Bryce Vowan, Ricky Stenhouse, Jr.
 Heat 2: Travis Senter, Jr., Josh Howard, Henry Gustavus.
 Heat 3: Hunter Schuenerberg, Garry Bell, Tony Bruce, Jr.
 Heat 4: Jake Martens, Toby Brown, Sam Hafertepe, Jr.
B Feature 1: Eddie Gallagher, Marshall Skinner, Lee Sowell.
B Feature 2: Ernie Ainsworth, Travis Rilal, Andy McElhannon.
A Feature: Wright, Darren Stewart, Dale Howard, Mike Ward, Tim Crawley, Jan Howard, Vowan, Rilal, Martens, Josh Howard.

Jennings Jams for ASCS Sooner Region Triumph

ADA, OK, April 23 -- Danny Jennings repelled Sean McClelland's bid for the win in American Sprint Car Series Sooner Region action Saturday night at Oklahoma Sports Park.

Fourth-starter Jennings slid past Cody Branchcomb and into the lead briefly on lap 6, only to have Branchcomb return the favor. In heavy traffic Jennings took over for good two laps later.

Action soon came to a halt when Eric Baldaccini took a tumble at the race's midway point. On the restart McClelland took fourth, and following a brief stoppage after 16 rounds he raced past Preston Peebles II for third. On lap 19 McClelland charged past Branchcomb.

Jason Martin's spin set up a five-lap dash to the checkered flag, but Jennings held off McClelland to score the victory.

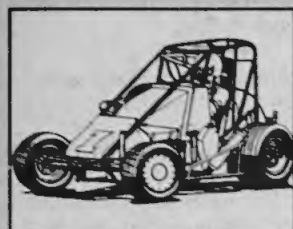
RESULTS
ASCs SPRINTS
 Heat 1: Danny Wood, Preston Peebles II, Jason Martin.
 Heat 2: Cody Branchcomb, Joel Howard, Andy Shouse.
 Heat 3: Dex Eaton, Danny Jennings, Eric Baldaccini.
 B Feature: Lee Jennings, Brian McClelland, Earnest Jennings.
 A Feature: D. Jennings, Sean McClelland, Branchcomb, Wood, Shouse, Foster Landon, Travis Scott, Natalie Sather, Peebles, Kerry McAlister.



Norman, OK's Danny Jennings (sixth from left) topped Saturday night's 25-lap American Sprint Car Series Sooner Region feature at Ada's Oklahoma Sports Park. (Don Hubbard photo)

Broadsliding the Speedways

Crocky Wright



Blustery winds and snow flurries were predicted for April 24, the scheduled date for the grand re-opening of the Winchester (IN) Speedway, resulting in the cancellation of the Rich Vogler memorial USAC sprint car classic. Also on tap was the Winchester 100 for CRA late models, and CRA street stocks.

The entire program has been rescheduled for October 16.

The USAC sprints will be at the Gas City I-69 Speedway on April 29 and at the Eldora Speedway on April 30 for the Buckeye Nationals. The deciding race for the annual Buckeye Nationals at Eldora on the 30th will be the scene of the first USAC sprint race under the promotion of Tony Stewart.

Ron Smoker, a top-flight modified driver from New York state, has decided to hang up his helmet and retire from racing after a long and successful career. He has won many championships over the speed paths in the northeastern US and Canada.

Midwestern fans will remember his thrilling rides in the Parker midget number 24 at the 16th Street Speedway. The quarter-mile dirt track was located inside the Bush Stadium, a few miles east of the 500-mile race track.

Smoker made the ten-hour trip from New York every race night in 1998-'99. With very little, if any, race time behind the wheel of a midget racer, Smoker scored three exciting feature wins and placed third in the final track points standings behind champion Michael Lang and Andy Pierce in 1998 and was awarded rookie-of-the-year honors. During the final season of racing at the former baseball stadium in 1999, he won the championship.

May you have a happy retirement, and thanks for all the thrills.

As fate would have it: Back in 1911, two young fellows in their early 20s journeyed from their New Jersey homes to Indianapolis to seek adventure as riding mechanics in the inaugural Indianapolis 500-mile race. The two, Sam Dickson and E.J. Towers, were boyhood buddies. They arrived early in the week before the race and roamed the pit area. Towers managed to get into the mechanic's seat of the Amplex number 12 driven by Arthur Greiner, and Dickson became the riding mechanic for the Amplex team car, the number 44 driven by W.H. Turner. The day before the race, and for some unexplained reason, the two switched cars.

During the running of the race, Greiner crashed into the southeast wall on the 13th lap. He suffered a broken shoulder, while Dickson received severe injuries which proved fatal. The other Amplex, with Turner at the wheel, went on to finish eighth. Ray Harroun won the race in the Marmon Wasp.

Many years later, in the late 1970s, Towers visited the IMS museum, and I had a pleasant talk with him. In discussing the 1911 race he pointed out the irony of switching cars: his life-long buddy and boyhood friend became the first fatality in the history of the Indy 500, and he went on to become the race's oldest survivor.

E.J. Towers died in 1985 at the age of 97.

The following is a brief recapitulation of the first ten drivers in the 1971 American Race Drivers Club point standings:

Johnny Coy: Behind the wheel of the Ken Brenn SESCO number 4, Coy racked up his third ARDC crown with a total of 3,360 points. The Merrick, Long Island, speedster previously won the title in 1968 and '69. In the previous five seasons of competition the cagey veteran had never placed worse than fourth in the final standings and certainly loomed as the driver to beat in 1972. He scored eight feature wins over the trail, three of them consecutively. He also placed second on six occasions.

Johnny Hubbard: Placing second by a margin of 160 points was the hard-driving, crowd-pleasing Hubbard, of Johnstown, PA. In his bid for championship honors, Hubbard blasted his way to seven feature wins; four of the seven took place at the Grandview Speedway, where he emerged the track champion. He also placed second and third three times and fourth on five occasions, all behind the wheel of the potent Ed Darrell SESCO number 83. Johnny was a three-year driver with the ARDC.

Jerry Stover: Heading for stardom was third-place driver Stover, of Brownstown, PA. His feature win column in his brief career to that date was not too impressive, but since switching to the Mike Sheehan SESCO number 10, he came along in great style. Consistent high placings in feature events vaulted him to the third rung on the championship ladder. He placed in the top five a total of 14 times, while his lone feature win was a 50-lapper at Wall Stadium. So impressed were the officials of the ARDC with his driving ability that he was considered a candidate for the "Most Improved Driver" award. Jerry tied for 12th place in the 1970 standings, and the popular driver from the Amish country was expected to be a frequent visitor in victory lane in 1972.

Duane "Pancho" Carter: Placing fourth was the sensational, smiling Carter, a youthful terror from California. In 1970 he tied for fourth place, and in '71 he was voted the Most Improved Driver by virtue of his six feature wins. He also placed second on six other occasions. Three of Pancho's wins came at the Grandview Speedway, where his spectacular broadsliding in the Jim Rieder SESCO number 61 would long be remembered.

Len Duncan: The veteran from Lansdale, PA, placed fifth in the final point standings in 1970 and repeated that in '71. The mustachioed speed merchant, wheeling the George Ferguson Offy number 6, scored in the top ten a total of 20 times. Len was an eight-time champion of the ARDC coming into the '71 season, but going winless for that entire season was rare indeed for the "old smoothie," who has garnered 59 features since 1995.

Jim Maguire: the dynamic, determined Maguire, of Sommerville, NJ, scored one victory and placed in the top ten a total of 20 times in the George Ferguson Offy number 7 to place sixth in the standings. The previous year he was rated 14th. The one-armed driver is extremely popular with the fans. As commendable as a sixth-place showing may be, the non-defeatist attitude of Maguire was such that he was determined to improve his standings in 1972.

Jimmy Kirk: The "flying blacksmith" placed seventh with three feature wins and 18 top-five finishes; five times he was

runner-up. An extremely hard and aggressive driver, Jimmy appeared a bit overanxious this past season and finished off his pace of 1970, where he finished second in the standings. Kirk saw action in the Ken Brenn SESCO number 2, the Ed Toth number 27 and the Ron Bennett SESCO number 22. One of the highlights of his '71 season was a sensational 100-lap victory in the ARDC/USAC-sanctioned event at Flemington, NJ.

Ed "Dutch" Schaefer: Driving the Mike Sheehan number 5 SESCO, the veteran Floral Park driver scored one feature victory and placed eighth in the standings. Although the "flying Dutchman" showed great form over the entire season, he was denied a higher berth in the point standings only because of mechanical problems and plain bad luck. On several occasions he led the final lap, only to run out of fuel with the checkers in sight. Sixteen times he placed in the top ten. One of the all-time greats in the midget ranks, Dutch has been the ARDC champion four times and has won 78 features since 1955.

Hank Rogers, Jr.: Another rising star in the ARDC ranks is personable Rogers, of Point Pleasant, NJ. Driving the Audrey Boyd Chevy II, his ninth place in the standings belittled the driving ability of this quiet, easy-going youngster. He scored two feature wins, but mechanical problems forced him out of many features with victory in sight. He was also involved in a spectacular flip at the Grandview Speedway in the Frank Fahey number 3. His misfortunes were of such great magnitude that he was voted the "hard luck driver" of the year. Even so, he managed to win the stock block championship for car owner Boyd. Young Rogers finished in the top ten a total of 14 times. During the 1970 season he placed 17th in the standings, also in a Boyd entry. Great things were expected of this youngster in 1972.

Roger Bailey: Missing from the standings in 1970, Bailey returned to the ARDC wars to finish tenth. He won two feature events in the Frank Fahey number 3; he also drove the Truitt Offy number 92. This veteran driver placed 11th in the standings in 1966, tenth in '67 and fourth in '69.

Missing from the '71 top ten were such standout drivers as Larry McCoy, Sonny Sanders, Bing Metz, Jimmy Fearick and Russ Klar.

A few May birthdays include Tracy Hines on the first; Manfred Richthofen on the second; Steve Paden on the third; Randy Tolsma and Jay Osborne on the fourth; Thomas Meseraull and David Steele on the seventh; Adam Nuetzel on the eighth; Wayne Mullikin and Rollin Harpring on the ninth; Brad Weber, Terry Goff, Bob Wente, Jr., and Randy Fiscus on the tenth; Steve Leisure on the 13th; Kevin Huntley on the 14th; Danny Smith on the 15th; Stevie Reeves on the 16th; Bruce Leisure on the 17th; Donnie Beechler on the 18th; Kim Kelley on the 19th; Tony Stewart on the 20th; John Linville on the 21st; Tom Hesser on the 22nd; Todd Shelton and Travis Welpott on the 23rd; Dan Ford, Al Unser, Sr., and Ken Schrader on the 29th; Norm Young on the 30th; and J.L. Brewer on the 21st. Happy birthday to all.

Mail will reach me at 1714 Georgetown Road, Lot 12, Speedway, IN.

Andretti to Campaign Five Additional Pro Series Races

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, April 21 -- Marco Andretti will compete in five additional IRL Menards Infiniti Pro Series races in 2005, including two races at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway - the Futaba Freedom 100, run the same weekend as the Indianapolis 500; and the Liberty Challenge, contested during the United States Grand Prix weekend.

Andretti, the 18-year-old grandson of former Indianapolis 500 winner Mario Andretti and the son of Andretti Green Racing co-owner Michael Andretti, won his series debut on April 3 at the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. Andretti will graduate from high school in May.

Andretti will compete in both races at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and also will compete on the one-mile oval at Milwaukee, WI, on July 24 and on the road courses at Infineon Raceway in Sonoma, CA, on August 28 and Watkins Glen (NY) International on September 25.

The Futaba Freedom 100 on May 27 will be Andretti's first career race on the 2.5-mile oval at Indianapolis where the Andretti family has made 53 starts, including Mario's 1969 victory. Marco won 11 races last season in claiming the Formula TR Pro Series title.

Brecht Bags ASCS Southern Tour Opener with Last-Lap Heroics

LAURENS, SC, April 23 -- Mike Brecht put an explanation point on the season opener for the American Sprint Series Southern Tour by making a dramatic last-lap pass to steal the win in Saturday night's 20-lap feature at Laurens County Speedway.

Brecht, from Findlay, OH, shared the front row with fellow Buckeye State racer Mike Dussel, but Dussel gunned into the lead at the drop of the green flag and paced the early rounds, fighting off the challenges of Brecht and Scott Young. Dussel successfully fought off his challengers until the final round, when Brecht swept into the lead to snare the victory.

Dussel settled for the runner-up slot, with Young in the show position. Doug Day claimed fourth, with Cody Adams rounding out the top five.

RESULTS

ASCS SPRINTS

Feature: Mike Brecht, Mike Dussel, Scott Young, Doug Day, Cody Adams, Mary Anne Williams, Danny Mercy, Butch Pendergrass, David Adkins, Doug Gold.

Action Heats Up a Cool Sunday at Motorplex

NASHVILLE, TN, April 24 -- A large crowd was in attendance at the Music City Motorplex for the inaugural running of the All American Late Model Challenge, featuring NASCAR star Bobby Hamilton, Jr., on Sunday's Family Fun Day at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Although the weather was cool, the racing action heated up on both the quarter-mile and the 5/8th-mile tracks.

Randy Pedley started on the pole for the first of six Late Model Challenge events to be held at the Motorplex throughout the 2005 season, but Bo Miller quickly passed him on the outside while completing lap 3 of 50. Dillion Oliver's spin brought out the first caution, and Kevin Willis tried to avoid Oliver but he was unable to and received heavy damage from the accident.

As Miller led at the restart, Mark Day and Hamilton, running door to door for second, made contact that resulted in Hamilton spinning into the outside wall. The heavy damage and front-end suspension failure forced him to retire. Miller then pulled to a commanding lead until Oliver spun. Day fell in behind Miller on the restart, but after Bobby Terry spun to bring out the caution with five laps to go, Miller held on to take the win with Day second. Sammy Sanders recovered from a spin to finish third, and Chuck Winder and Pedley rounded out the top five.

Michael Bolden brought the Bandolero Bandit feature field to the green flag, but after a three-car accident brought out the caution, Darrell Wallace passed Bolden on the restart to take the lead and pull

away. Bolden then got lose coming to take the white flag and lost four positions, while Wallace held on to take the win, followed by Hunter Shelton and Mason Massey. Scott Hensley and Bolden rounded out the top five.

Kyle Curry took the lead to start the Bandolero Young Guns main event, followed closely by Kody Mea. But Mea drove into turn 4 too hard and spun. Mea and Curry then got together on the back stretch on the last lap, resulting in both cars spinning, but Curry came away with the win.

Edward Norman and Matt Ryman got together at the start of the Junior Front Runner feature, resulting in both cars going hard into the wall. Josh Berry then led the pack, while Taylor Ryman followed close until the last lap, when he completed a pass for the lead and took the win. Trevor Gant was third, ahead

of Travis Ryman and Chasitie Green.

Although Bruce Harden started third in the Thunder Stock feature, he was in the lead by turn 1 after a three-wide pass and continued on for the win. Lee Howard had some transmission problems late in the race, giving second place to Michael Gibson.

John Bass brought out the first caution in the first combined Hornet-Front Runner Senior race of the season by spinning down the front stretch. Larry Green led at the restart, but Charlie Parrish took the lead and held on for the win. Arthur Choate III took third, Bass crawled back for fourth, and Wheel Binkley was fifth. Dean Faulk, Sr., took the win in the Hornets.

Clint Ivey jumped out to the early lead in the Outlaw feature and held it through a late-race caution that set up a green-white-checkered finish

to take the win, followed closely by Chris Hall and Curtis Thompson. Fourth went to Billy Williams, and Chris Willard rounded out the top five.

Keeton Hanks led every lap and took the win in the Legends Pro feature, ahead of Joshua Mullins, Clay Hair, Kevin Rollins and Tim Woodlee. The race went caution-free as Mullins made several attempts to take the lead but could not complete the pass. Hair took the win in the Masters division.

Steven Meador brought the largest Legends Semi Pro field of the season - 16 cars - to the green flag for the feature. Tyler Cordell made several attempts to get under Meador but couldn't make his car stick. Meador held on to take the narrow win ahead of Cordell, with Tyler Slayden, Justin Morton and Daren Vanderley following.

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North Tundra Racing Beat



What is that line concerning the best laid plans of mice and men? Seems something always throws a monkey wrench in the works somehow, doesn't it? So it came to pass this past weekend.

Since Joanne and I are semi-retired (as you are no doubt tired of hearing), it is possible for us to blow out of home base in Superior and roam free in the surrounding area without fear of running afoul of our jobs. The only thing I

run afoul of is my (self-) imposed deadline for this deathless prose of Sunday afternoon (or evening). At least I would have 'til noon Monday if worst came to worst, as that is CFRN's deadline ... but I digress! Here is where this all takes us ...

Since we do not start racing here on the tundra until mid-May (Friday the 13th, if you can believe ... have to check the lunar chart to see if a full moon is near!), we are able to take in some racing at area tracks further south (where the trees are at least budding) that have opened for business. That was the plan Friday: head down to the Red Cedar Speedway to catch another show there.

Now comes the monkey wrench: hey, it's snowing! It was in the 80s here on the tundra (away from Lake Superior, of course) on Monday, and now Friday it's 47 degrees and raining. Well, we thought, it's gonna be better to the south (you remember the budding leaves on the trees), even though it's only 140 miles or so. So ... we ran into rain and snow within a few miles of Menomonie and got to the track at 5 pm, only to find there was no one home! (Seeing Steve Isenberg's hauler headed back to eastern Wisconsin should have been a tipoff.) It would seem that since we vend the *National Speedway Directory*, you would think we would have one in the van ... wrong! So it was back to Chippewa Falls and Joanne's sister's place to rest up for our push further south in search of racing.

We have never been able to see a show at the Deer Creek Speedway, just south of Rochester, MN, so we thought this would be a good time. It's a good thing this was our objective all along, because another possible track to attend, the Rice Lake Speedway, also pulled the pin on Saturday. To make things more interesting, the "car guy" at the local repair garage and car dealership prevailed upon us to deliver a small truck to a customer in Rochester. So there we were with two vehicles until Saturday afternoon.

Never having been to Rochester we looked on a map to find the best route; then, with typical Irish bravado, we routed ourselves the way we thought best. Suffice it to say we once again outsmarted ourselves - sometimes longer is faster!

(One note here: do not follow Minnesota Highway 60 after you cross in from Wisconsin. Up hill, down hill, switchbacks ... I thought I was headed through the Alps!)

Be that as it may, it was still Mom Nature who was giving us problems. The sun shone and it was a glorious day ... until we stepped outside. Then we were hit with 30-mph wind gusts and 40-degree temperatures. Didn't matter if we were almost in Iowa or not!

Don't get me wrong: our anticipation couldn't have been higher even if it had been a balmy 75 degrees, as we were really looking forward to our first glimpse of Deer Creek, and we were suitably impressed with what the Queensland family has done with the place. The track itself is only about ten years old but, we were told, has come a long way since the Queenslands bought it in November 2001.

Since the family - Randy, Deb, Susan, Ryan, Justin, Cole and Riley (two years old) - have been in charge, many improvements have been put in place, including two new huge buildings that house sponsor and private suites upstairs, with balconies in front that are just above the grandstands. The

south building is nearly finished and open for business underneath, with a restaurant-style concession. The floor is still crushed rock and there appears to be a bit more work to do, but it was impressive nonetheless. What I liked was the closed-circuit television that enables the fans to see what is occurring on the track while they wait in line for their food or eat in comfort.

We were told that the track has received a new surface this year, and it is a good one, as it held up with minimal roughness, (just a rut in turn 1 that seemed to bother the track prep crew more than it did the racers, as they kept beating on it until it pretty much submitted.)

I love their vehicle they use to mist the track. It is apparently some sort of farm implement, perhaps used to spray crops. Its fold-out arms are very long and enable the machine to mist the track in a single pass. See! I keep saying, running a race track is like farming! Disks and harrows are also used, as well as tractors, and now crop-spraying units to water the track.

I have failed to mention that it is the Deer Creek Speedway and Campground. The Queenslands also scored the campground in the purchase, which puts them in a great position, in my estimation. Since the Queenslands own the adjacent property, no one will be able to build close to the track north of the campground. Unless I'm incorrect, I believe that to the south and east is Deer Creek, which forms a buffer between the track and the neighboring farm. I'm not sure what is across Highway 63, but it is most likely a working farm (there are a lot of huge farms in this part of Minnesota), which will most likely not turn into developed housing anytime soon.

Perhaps the most interesting signage at the track are the two full-sized modifieds mounted on poles about 20 feet off the ground. I was told to look for these when we drove up, as that would show where the track was. Apparently this person has not been there since they built the north suite building, as it covers up the north sign.

The place has plenty of parking, and we wondered how many souls would brave the chill, as the forecast for Saturday night was lows in the mid-20s! We race fans are a hardy lot, however, and the crowd looked to be very good.

We did not meet Randy Queensland until we had staked out our claim in the grandstands just in front of Kim and Mike Nesbitt (yes, Tom's brother and sister-in-law). We headed down to find some hot chocolate (mine was going to be poured into my shoes!), and we met up with Randy, who said there was room in the announcer's tower for us. This sounded great, since I was wondering if we were as tough as we thought. Unfortunately there was no place for us to sit, so after warming up and saying a quick howdy to our friend, announcer Todd Narveson, we headed back to our perch in the stands.

We barely got settled when we were paged and asked to report to the announcer's tower. We were met by Randy, who said that one of the claimed suites was't full and we invited to join them, which we were more than pleased to do! Our thanks to, I believe, Tracy and the rest of the crew, and to Randy for finding us a indoor place to sit.

A word about the suites ... very nice! Big picture windows that give an excellent view of the races, and - most importantly that night - heat! Also, there are speakers with individual volume controls and comfortable chairs, and each suite has at least two televisions. Saturday they were tuned to the NASCAR Cup race in Phoenix, so we were able to keep one eye on that race as well as on the action on the track.

And plenty of action there was - 156 cars in six divisions, including 23 WISSOTA late models, 35 USRA modifieds (which are a lot like USMTS mods and pretty close to WISSOTA's mega-mods), 26 WISSOTA super stocks, 32 WISSOTA Mid-mods, 25 WISSOTA street stocks and 15 "classic dwarf cars." I'd guess that the drivers down there decided to go with the

Jerry O'Brien

USRA cars, since Deer Creek is just a long throw from center field away from the Iowa border; in fact, one street stocker hails from Cresco.

With the rain-outs (or "freeze-outs") in other places, a number of familiar drivers were on hand. Late model pilot Duane Mahder and son Chad were on hand, most likely since Rice Lake froze out and, with the tire deal at Cedar Lake, opted for the trip from Eau Claire here, as did Tom Nesbitt, who cannot race at CLS as per orders from car owner Mike Seubert due to the new tire rule there.

There was a big crowd of mods due to the USMTS race in Missouri being lost to weather. Since many USMTS cars are from Rochester and the surrounding area and Iowa, many stayed around to run at Deer Creek. If you follow big mod racing at all, you will recognize many of the drivers at Deer Creek that night, including USMTS champion Kelly Shryrock, Mark Noble, Tommy Meyer (who won the feature despite a driver's side door panel that flew straight out like it was hinged at the top during the last few circuits), John Tesch (not the singer), local hot shoe Mike Sorenson, and several others. We saw that an acquaintance of ours, Jay Poidinger of Somerset, WI, is also a semi-regular with USMTS and was on hand. He hedges his bets, however, and still has his WISSOTA stickers on the car, making it legal to run in WISSOTA's mega-mod class.

It was a pleasure to see these guys who race on a circuit against one another on a regular basis put on a show. At the finish it was Meyer, Noble, Shryrock (who came from ninth), Tesch and Sorenson in the top five.

Duane Mahder led all but the last couple of laps of the late model feature, as Mark Teske grabbed the lead and the win after a restart with three to go. Earlier in their heat, Chad put the whuppin' on Dad.

Nesbitt had a problem with another car in his heat and looked as though he was run into the back stretch wall, which damaged something and put him out. He came back to start 22nd in the feature and made it up to 11th at the end. This is Tom's 47th season behind the wheel of a race car. I may have mentioned it previously, but Tom or someone is on a nostalgia trip, as this car is supposed to have the same paint scheme as his 1977 car. Supposedly there are going to be other retro paint schemes coming this season.

Also on hand was rookie late model driver Adam Hensel from Rice Lake, who ran well in his heat.

The multi-caution-flagged super stock feature was won by Cole Queensland, much to the excitement of his fans and family in the next suite. Another interloper from Eau Claire, Aaron Wilson, finished a close second in a race that was exciting in between the yellows.

Local driver Dean Hoffman was the Mid-mod feature winner, while still another traveler, Jim Gullickson, won in the street stocks. Brian Kiehne was the dwarf car winner; these cars look as though a bunch of Matchbox cars had escaped the toy store and decided to put on a race!

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Deer Creek Speedway and will try to return for the Gopher 50, which will be held there this year. I suspect many of the improvements will be finished by the time we are able to return. It is easy to see why DCS garnered WISSOTA's Track of the Year award for 2004. We understand that the next project at the track will be upgrading the bathrooms, though that is no doubt going to be very expensive given the price to install a septic system nowadays.

Next weekend we will probably stay home to take care of a few things around this homestead, as well as seeing about getting the farm opened up for the season. So, for now, that's all from here on the tundra.

Ramblin' 'bout Racin'

Charlie Spry



On Saturday night I decided at the last minute to brave the bitter cold and head up to the Dells, which was one of very few tracks in the state to have a go at it. Needless to say, a less-than-stellar crowd braved the elements, in which the limited late models were at center stage.

Kenny Richards won the LLM title here last year and won the feature tonight, and while he was obviously happy with his night's work, the second-

and third-place finishers were happy, too.

Joel Soenksen had a strong car and drove it to second in the feature. I mentioned to Joel that it looked like he must have spent a lot of time on the car this past winter to have it working so well on opening night, but he replied, "I wish I could tell you that we busted our butts over the winter working on it, but I would be lying. We dug it out a couple of weeks ago and put new brakes on it and a new harness, and that is about all." Crew chief Al Duerst then said, "Someone came over and looked at the car and said, 'You didn't even take off the tire marks on the side from last year!' We are just having fun with it. We are a real low-budget outfit just trying to have some fun. Joel turned his fastest qualifying lap here ever tonight, so we

are happy."

As for this season, Joel said that they plan on racing at the Dells as well as some of the Mid-State Challenge Series events, specifically at Golden Sands, Marshfield and Wausau. He recently practiced at the Sands and really liked it, and he is looking forward to racing some new tracks. His car's chassis was once raced by Jim Weber.

Beau Sanden was likewise satisfied with his night, even though he had some body damage at the end of the night. "I got the front-end mushed up a bit, and it was kind of blocking my view," said Beau. "At the end I was just kind of hanging on." His night started off with setting a new track record in qualifying and a second-place heat finish.

Richard Shumann, Jr., is sporting a new sponsorship on his car, and he did a nice job in coming from the back of the feature to grab a fourth-place finish - this after missing qualifying and his heat.

The super stock and pure stock divisions did their usual quality job of racing on this cold night, with the features run off in quick order. Bandit rookie driver Bill Fitters got his first win on opening night by taking his heat race, while the feature went to Robert Armstrong in a close one.

Besides the big LLM wreck, everything went pretty well, and I was back in the rapidly-warming car quickly!

Red Cedar Calls Show Due to Freeze Out

by Ed Reichert

MENOMONIE, WI, April 22 -- A combination of falling temperatures, light rain showers and strong north winds produced March-like wind chills and caused the racing program at the Red Cedar Speedway to be postponed Friday night.

Racing resumes on Friday, April 29, at 6:45 pm

Eagle Valley a No-Go

by Ed Reichert

JIM FALLS, WI, April 24 -- A combination of unseasonably cold temperatures and high winds led to the cancellation of the regular weekly racing program Sunday night at the Eagle Valley Speedway.

Racing is scheduled to return on Sunday, May 1, with a six-division program slated to take the green flag at 6 pm. The Eagle Valley Speedway is located just north of Jim Falls on Wisconsin Highway 178. Gates open at 4 pm for drivers and 4:30 for spectators. The track phone number is (715) 382-5367.

Rice Lake Too Cold; Drew Memorial Reset

by Ed Reichert

RICE LAKE, WI, April 23 -- The opening race of the 2005 season at the Rice Lake Speedway Saturday was postponed due to unseasonably cold weather conditions.

The Drew 21 Pit Crew Memorial super stock special, planned as a part of opening night, has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 30, along with judging for the best appearing cars. Gates open at 4 pm, with the first race to take the green at 6:30. The track phone number is (715) 236-2002.

Lima All Star Show Wet

ALLENTOWN, OH, April 22 -- The All Star Circuit of Champions sprint car series event scheduled for Friday, April 22, at Limaland Motorsports Park was rained out. No rescheduling has been set.

Independence Season Opener Postponed

INDEPENDENCE, IA, April 23 -- After heavy rains hit the area Friday night and unseasonably cool temperatures were forecast for Saturday night, officials canceled the April 23 race event at Independence Motor Speedway.

The scheduled kick-off to the 2005 season at the north-central Iowa track has now been pushed back one week, to Saturday, April 30.

Grant County Opener Rained Out

LANCASTER, WI, April 23 -- The opening-night racing program scheduled for Saturday, April 23, at the Grant County Speedway was cancelled due to rain and cold weather.

A second attempt to open the 2005 season at the newest addition to the Simmons Promotions family of race tracks will be on Saturday, April 30, with hot laps scheduled for 6 pm

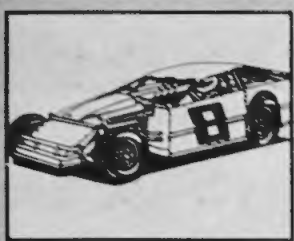
Bloomington Races Rained Out

BLOOMINGTON, IN, April 22 -- Since rain was predicted all day, it wasn't a shock when promoter Mike Miles pulled the plug on Friday night's racing program at Bloomington Speedway.

Racing action at the Indiana track continues next Friday night.

Reichert's Ramblings

Ed Reichert



Coleman, with new driver Billy Balog getting his first laps behind the wheel of the car and seeing the Rice Lake track for the first time.

Balog completed some smooth laps but appeared to have some problems with the dry-slick track, as he did loop a few times. But every time I saw him spin, he kept the car moving and not require a push truck.

Jed Moore was experimenting with carburetors in his modified, feeling that perhaps the wrong carb has caused his car to bog, as he feels he's getting beat coming off the turns. He looked to be putting in some very solid laps that I saw, and he said this car is much further ahead than he was at this time last year.

I talked to Pat Hoffman in the pits. Pat, a former modified, late model and super stock driver, will be taking this year off from the sport. The super he drove last year has been sold to Denny Stordahl, and the Midwest modified he built he ended up selling to the Stordahls also. The Hoffmans had an addition to their family last month, so Pat will focus on that new aspect of his life.

Returning to the sport after about four years off is Chris Manor from the Iron Range of Minnesota, in his uniquely-numbered R car. His first laps after time away from the sport looked solid.

Tony Luell's return after a year away from racing was busy, as he struggled with some overheating problems with his pure stock. He continued to work on them all night as he fine-tuned his car.

The Mid-mods continue to attract new drivers as well as some returning to the sport after some time away. Both Tim and Darin Vought were making laps in their cars tonight. Kevin Adams was putting his first laps on his new car, and he looked very fast.

Rookie Colton Ellis looked smooth as he put his pure stock through its paces, while Carolyn Nossler looked much quicker than she had during practice at Eagle Valley last week. Paul Brust was also fine-tuning his late model. He will be in the same car that he ran last year.

In their respective divisions, Don Drew and Tom Nesbitt looked especially quick, while Adam Hensel continues to look like he's raced at late model for years and not just for a couple weeks.

On Friday I ended up at the Princeton (MN) Speedway, which turned out to be one of the very few tracks that raced that night due to the rain and extreme cold. Despite less-than-ideal conditions nearly 140 cars were on hand to compete in four classes - a full field, to say the least. Princeton doesn't get a lot of ink but they continue to average one of the highest modified car counts in all of WISSOTA, and tonight it had 32 mods as well as 49 Mid-mods - another class in which they rank high in WISSOTA in terms of attendance.

It's been over a year since my last trip to Princeton, so this was the first time I got to enjoy their new lighting. Track and spectator lighting is one area where a number of area tracks could use a little upgrading, and the new ones at Princeton are spectacular.

As always, the action was hot and heavy on the tight quarter-mile, with plenty of swapping of tin and close racing action. Despite the brutal conditions tonight, there was a solid crowd on hand that stayed for the full show despite it running a little late.

All four of the features were close, with the winners using the top side of the high-banked track to hold off their competition. Larry Zeller, Jr., was especially spectacular as he passed Dave Cain on the high side and then fought off Cain's repeated challenges for the modified win. To hold off Cain at Princeton, where he is extremely tough to beat, was quite an accomplishment.

It was an interesting night of racing and a chance for me to see a number of drivers that I don't get to see in action too often. Princeton has a loyal group of drivers, many of which don't travel around too much to other tracks, resulting in part in the high car counts.

It was disappointing on Saturday that the Drew Crew Memorial at the Rice Lake Speedway had to be postponed for a week, but the weather was brutal and the decision was made between the track management and the Drew family to do so. Rice Lake officials are planning some major renovations and upgrades to their spectator areas as the summer progresses.

With Rice Lake postponed, I hustled over to the Cedar Lake Speedway for their program. Despite very cool conditions there also, they were anxious to get in a show after being rained out last week, and with most tracks not racing on Friday, the drivers were also gung ho to get some racing in, and a huge field of 174 race cars was on hand.

The WISSOTA sprints were the featured attraction on Saturday night and 33 cars turned out. Frankly, I didn't know that there were still 33 WISSOTA sprints, period, but they apparently did a lot of contacting of drivers to ensure a good turnout for the Billy Anderson Memorial, including some from North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa. I'm told it was the biggest turnout ever for the Anderson Memorial.

As it turned out, the sprint feature proved to be the most entertaining of the night. After three tries to get the first lap in, the rest of the event went non-stop, with Chuck Swenson and Loren Langerud jockeying the lead spot back and forth. When the leaders had trouble getting past Donovan Peterson near the end, the third- and fourth-place cars of Dustin Lindquist and Wade Nygaard also caught up, and Lindquist was gaining at a remarkable rate but just ran out of laps. Swenson chose to stay low, and Langerud pinned him behind a lapped car on the final tour, jumped to the middle of the track and blew past on the final corner for an exciting win.

Peterson and crew did an amazing job just to get him on the track for the main event. He was involved in a grinding crash in the dash, with the whole front-end knocked off the car, but somehow, with little time to make repairs, they got him ready to roll for the feature.

Overall it was a good performance by the sprint group, with only a big banger in the B-feature to slow the action.

Joel Cryderman, Tim Borgeson and Steve Arpin all dominated their respective feature events, although the battle for second in the lates was a dandy between Mike Nutzmann and Brent Larson, with Pat Doar and Trent Follmer also tussling behind them. It was good to see Larson back on the track, as he debuted a new car with an impressive performance.

Two previous national champions duked it out in the modifieds, with Craig Thatcher getting past Paul Harelstad for his first win of the year. Tyler Keyser was also having a sterling run until he broke with a mechanical problem; Keyser was limping severely after he climbed out of his car.

Although he didn't have a particularly good night, it was remarkable to even see Mike Anderson back on the track tonight. After his grinding head-on crash at Eagle Valley last Sunday, it didn't seem possible that they could get that car fixed so soon, but the pit crews for these drivers can do some remarkable things in a short period of time.

Troy Giralamo had been waiting for a motor for his car, so he made his debut tonight. Unfortunately, he made only half a lap before he got tagged from behind and knocked into the concrete wall, doing heavy damage to the front-end of his car.

Dale Mathison continues to impress in his first full season behind the wheel of a mod. He has had several solid runs and looks like he will soon be a legitimate contender for a feature win.

It was good to see Riley Matthews back on the track. The former street stock racer from Murillo, Ont., was making his first appearance on the track after suffering a broken neck in a crash last September. He has made the move up to Mid-mods, but against a tough field Saturday he failed to qualify for his first main event in that class.

Jay Amundson informs me that his race team hopes to be on the track in a week or so. They recently sold their car from last year to a southern Minnesota driver and will soon take delivery of their new car. They hope to get it done as quickly as possible, as his driver, Eric Pember, has a few weeks off from the late model wars to drive it. Pember was driving Paul Knauf's car tonight.

Lukas Peterson informs us that their team may be adding a Mid-mod to their stable, to be driven by either Lukas or his father.

Twenty-four late models were on hand for the opening night of the Goodyear-only tire rule - a number higher than many spectators would have predicted but probably less than management would have hoped for. After experimenting with the tires, the feeling among some drivers was that the compound was still too soft. Even after the program was completed around midnight, several drivers were sent back out to experiment with another tire they were trying.

It had to have been one of the coldest nights ever at CLS, with some ice appearing to form on Lake Cook in the center of the track. I kid you not.

Sunday was another bitter cold day, with many tracks throwing in the towel early despite the misleading sunny skies. I-35 Speedway is one of those tracks that generally races come hell or high water and, sure enough, it was racing as normal at the Mason City, IA, plant. Although not large, a hardy crowd was on hand to watch nearly 130 cars in action, including a pit-swelling 37 hobby stocks.

The race program went remarkably smooth despite two rollovers in the features, as there were only two yellow flags total in the heat races.

Clint Wendel was very happy after he won his first-ever IMCA modified feature. The former stock car and 360 mod driver held off every challenge from Pat Graham and Charlie McKenna for the win.

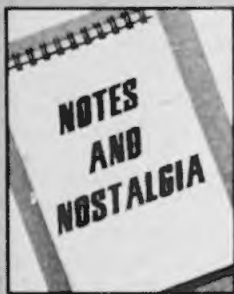
T.J. Stalker will be a name to keep an eye on in years to come in northern Iowa. The 17-year-old won his first-ever 360 mod feature Friday night at Fairmont, MN, and Sunday he came from 12th to finish second in the main.

The Hornet feature was without a doubt the wildest event of the night. Twenty-six cars started the race, and they were literally all over the track and beyond before the race was completed, including one that flipped into the corn field. I know this beginner class of cars has gotten very popular at a number of tracks, including in Wisconsin, but there's something about small, four-cylinder, front-wheel-drive cars racing on a big half-mile that makes me more than a little nervous. They are so easy to flip, and when you get a big group of cars, drivers start driving bolder and accidents happen.

Even more scary to me is that they have a Junior Hornet division, for 13- through 15-year-olds. Sunday night they had ten of them, and one took a wild flip into the catch fence on the front chute. Remarkably, the car was driven away from the scene of the wreck and didn't look too damaged. There's something unsettling to me when you walk through the pits before the races and there's a number of younger folks wearing drivers suits that don't even come up to my shoulder height. Seems to me that go-karts would be just a little safer, but perhaps not.

Notes & Nostalgia

Jerry Dorich



If you talk to a lot of nurses, especially those involved with patient care, you'll find one of the most frequently used words is *manipulative*, as in, mostly, "the patient was *manipulative*." We couldn't help thinking of that word when we read IRL president Brian Barnhart's opinion of CART's latest "sit down" with Tony George.

Barnhart cynically noted that CART brought nothing new to the meeting and questioned CART's timing - as in, CART always makes these overtures close to the start of Indy 500 practice. The supposition has to be that CART either wants to deflect attention from the drama of Indy or to get themselves involved in that drama. Both cases are hypocrisies unchallenged by the press.

Barnhart also showed he has a grasp of the situation. He figured that the problems of open-wheel racing are greater than the excitement level at the races. He also noted that philosophy has separated the two series for ten years, rather than the lack of common equipment rules.

Kevin Kalkhoven, CART's chief, claimed that the assumption that one side had to surrender command of the series was completely invalid. This would imply that both series would share command. Yeah, right.

Kalkhoven also posited the idea that CART was like Harley-Davidson in that CART isn't a great invention but it is a great American interpretation of an American idea. Kalkhoven should get his wires re-routed. This wise judgment describes NASCAR more aptly than it does either CART or the IRL. Big-time open-wheel racing will never be popular in this country as long as both Kalkhoven and Tony George have NASCAR's blueprint of a tremendously successful series in front of them, yet are unable to do anything to match it. Like, couldn't George and Kalkhoven do some manipulating, put Tony Stewart and Jeff Gordon in competitive cars and get them into a few of their starting fields - especially the Indy 500?

Carol Slezak, a columnist who usually gives auto racing a fair write-up, expressed some concern that Monday Night Football's transferring from parent ABC to ESPN meant that fans would now have to pay to watch it. At first we wondered what the heck Slezak was talking about. We race fans have for

so long paid to watch our sport that we forget that we are paying. The only - repeat, *only* - reason we ever had cable installed was so that we could watch all the racing that our friends in other cities were watching. Also, we see it as more than coincidental that much of NASCAR's surge in popularity occurred while ESPN was bringing Winston Cup races to viewers that formerly didn't know what most Cup tracks looked like. So, we don't share Slezak's angst about NFL fans having to cough up for cable if they want to watch MNF.

Of more concern was NBC's announcement that they had secured the rights for Sunday night NFL football. The ramifications are both complicated and numerous. How will this affect NASCAR's Sunday afternoon races? If the races start at a decently early time, like they should, the races should be over well before the 6 pm start time of the NFL pre-game show. Car sponsors want prime-time exposure. What about a rain delay? A lot of the Cup tracks have lights, so there's no problem transferring to some cable outlet, but, again, car sponsors don't like paying those big bucks for Speed Channel exposure. Those of us who go elsewhere on Sundays, like a local short track, and add an extra hour or two on the VCR to allow for a rain delay, won't like it either.

NBC probably likes the idea of having the Cup races as an immediate lead-in to the NFL pre-game. NASCAR recently stated that it wants its championship-deciding season-ender televised during prime time, like all the other major championships. Homestead recently installed lights to that end. We can't see NBC pre-empting any NFL game to make room for anything NASCAR - even a nail-biter, dramatic-as-can-be finale. Homestead could run the closer on Saturday, but that could conflict with other NBC shows. NBC's idea of perfection would probably be something like the race winner doing donuts just prior to the NFL show. But how do you make a race end at the scheduled time? Even miracle-worker NASCAR can't guarantee that. NASCAR could go to all Saturday night races, but it has made tepid statements that it does not want to hurt the nation's short tracks, some of whom have NASCAR affiliation.

NASCAR's contract with NBC expires in 2006, so the answer might be there. If ESPN got back into the game, that would finally mean that NASCAR was again dancing with the girl they brought to the party, but there's probably complications involved in that, too. This whole thing is an headache-inducer -

but nowhere near as bad as having no racing at all on TV.

Network television is hard to figure. We were surprised to find the San Marino Grand Prix broadcast on CBS. We figured if CBS was going to televise San Marino, surely they would televise the USGP at Indianapolis. Wrong. Instead, CBS is televising the GPs of Spain, Montreal and Hockenheim.

The telecast had other surprises, some pleasant and some not. Most pleasant was the return to competitiveness by Michael Schumacher and Ferrari. As to whether Jacques Villeneuve's return to competitiveness was pleasant or not depends on how you view Villeneuve's Indy 500 victory. In view of Villeneuve's negative comments made later, we view Villeneuve's win as a dark moment for Indy and still feel the race should have gone to Scott Goodyear.

Even more unpleasant was having to listen to Derek Daly, of the Blabbermouth School of Sports Announcers. Daly takes bolstering of the series to ridiculous levels, since what we saw on the track couldn't generate much enthusiasm. However, our criticism of Daly might be unfair, because the producer of the program might be the one responsible for all the verbiage. Daly is probably only obeying the producer's wishes in order to keep his job.

A reliable source informs us that Larry MacReynolds, who we've criticized in the past for being an annoying motormouth, is definitely not so during personal appearances.

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NATIONAL	Joey Schaefer.....234	Keith Williamson.....108	Lucas Korish.....78	Jeff Saylor.....726	Shannon McQueen.....98	Chett Gehrke.....47
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Darren Stewart.....554	Jeff Schroyer.....228	Kyle Wahlert.....101	John Olson.....70	Denny/Matt Crass.....400	Scott Pierovich.....89	
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				Chris Veach.....71		
				Dustin Morgan.....70		
				Bobby Michnowicz.....68		
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